

ROMANS

DEAD TO
SIN,
ALIVE TO
GOD



DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE TO GOD

**A Simple Guide to Grace, Freedom, and New
Life in Christ**

Introduction

Grace is one of the most beautiful truths in the Christian life.

But it is also one of the most misunderstood.

Some people think grace means God forgives sin, so sin no longer matters. Others think grace is only the beginning, but after that, everything depends on human effort, discipline, and religious performance.

Both views miss the heart of the gospel.

Grace does not make sin acceptable. Grace makes freedom possible.

The gospel teaches that sin is not just a bad habit or a series of wrong choices. Sin is a power that enslaves the human heart. It separates people from God, controls desires, creates guilt, and leads to death.

But the gospel also teaches something greater.

Through Jesus Christ, grace is stronger than sin. Forgiveness is stronger than shame. New life is stronger than the old life.

Romans 6 shows one of the most important truths in the Christian faith: those who belong to Christ have died to sin and have been raised to live a new life with God.

This does not mean Christians never struggle. It does not mean temptation disappears. It does not mean spiritual growth happens overnight.

It means sin is no longer the master.

The believer now belongs to Christ.

And because of that, the Christian life is not about trying to earn God's love. It is about learning to live from the grace already received.

Chapter 1

The Real Problem

Before grace can be understood, sin must be understood.

Sin is not only doing bad things. It is deeper than behavior.

Sin is the desire to live apart from God. It is the decision to be in control. It is the human heart saying, “I want my way more than God’s way.”

That is why sin is so serious.

It does not only affect actions. It affects desires, thoughts, relationships, identity, and purpose.

Many people try to solve the problem of sin by becoming more religious. They try harder. They make rules. They compare themselves with others. They believe that if they behave well enough, God will accept them.

But the Bible teaches that no one becomes right with God by personal performance.

The law can show what sin is, but the law cannot remove sin. The law can reveal guilt, but it cannot give new life. The law can expose the problem, but it cannot heal the heart.

This is why the gospel is necessary.

Without the gospel, there is no true hope. Without the gospel, people are left trying to fix themselves with their own strength.

But through Christ, God offers something human effort could never produce.

He offers grace.

Grace means God gives what people do not deserve. Grace means forgiveness is received by faith, not earned by performance. Grace

means the sinner can be made right with God because of what Jesus has done.

The problem is greater than most people realize.

But grace is greater still.

Chapter 2

Grace Greater Than Sin

Romans says that where sin increased, grace increased even more.

That is a powerful truth.

It means there is no past too broken for the grace of God. There is no guilt too heavy. There is no failure too deep. There is no shame too strong.

This does not make sin small.

It makes grace great.

Many people carry the weight of what they have done. They remember words they wish they had never spoken. They remember choices they wish they could undo. They remember seasons of life filled with regret.

And sometimes they wonder if God could truly forgive them.

The answer of the gospel is yes.

God's grace is greater than past sin.

But grace does not only cover the past. It also covers the present and secures the future for those who are in Christ.

The believer is not saved because of personal goodness. The believer is saved because Jesus died in the place of sinners and rose again.

That is why grace brings peace.

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Peace with God does not come from pretending to be perfect. It comes from trusting that Christ is enough.

But grace also raises an important question.

If grace covers sin, should people continue living in sin?

Romans answers clearly: absolutely not.

Grace is not permission to stay the same. Grace is the power that makes a new life possible.

The same grace that forgives also transforms.

Chapter 3

Dead to Sin

Romans 6 says that those who belong to Christ have died to sin.

This is one of the most important truths in the Christian life.

To be dead to sin does not mean a Christian never feels temptation. It does not mean a Christian becomes perfect immediately. It does not mean the struggle disappears.

It means sin no longer owns the believer.

Before Christ, sin ruled like a master. It controlled the direction of life. It shaped desires. It pulled the heart away from God.

But when someone is united with Christ, the old life loses its authority.

The believer now has a new identity.

Sin may still tempt, but it is no longer king. The flesh may still pull, but it is no longer in charge. The old desires may still speak, but they no longer have the final word.

This truth may not always feel true.

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There will be days when temptation feels strong. There will be moments when old patterns try to return. There will be seasons when growth feels slow.

But the Word of God says that in Christ, the old self has been crucified.

That means the Christian does not fight sin as a helpless slave.

The Christian fights sin as someone who has already been set free by Christ.

Freedom begins when the believer starts living according to what God says is already true.

The old life has died.

A new life has begun.

Chapter 4

Raised to Walk in New Life

The Christian life is not only about dying to sin.

It is also about being raised to new life.

Romans connects this truth with baptism. When a believer goes under the water, it represents death and burial. When the believer comes up from the water, it represents resurrection and new life.

This is a picture of what has happened spiritually.

The old life has been buried. A new life has begun in Christ.

This new life is not just a better version of the old life. It is not simply becoming more religious. It is not adding church, prayer, and moral behavior to an unchanged heart.

It is a new way of living.

The believer now lives under grace. The believer now belongs to God. The believer now has the Holy Spirit dwelling within.

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This changes the direction of life.

Before Christ, life was centered on self. After Christ, life begins to be centered on God.

Before Christ, sin ruled. After Christ, grace reigns.

Before Christ, the heart lived under guilt and separation. After Christ, the heart receives forgiveness, peace, and relationship with God.

This does not mean every struggle ends immediately.

But it does mean the believer is no longer the same person.

New life has begun.

And this new life must be lived day by day.

Chapter 5

No Longer a Slave

Romans teaches that the person who has died has been set free from sin.

This is not saying that sin no longer exists.

It is saying that sin no longer has the right to rule.

There is a difference between struggling with sin and being enslaved to sin.

A believer may still struggle. A believer may still fall. A believer may still need correction, repentance, and growth.

But the direction of the heart has changed.

The Christian no longer wants to make peace with sin. The Christian wants to walk with God.

That is a sign of new life.

Before Christ, a person may have chased sin and tried to add a little bit of God. But after Christ, the desire changes. The believer

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begins to pursue God, even while still learning how to fight the flesh.

This is where many people misunderstand Christianity.

Following Jesus is not about giving God a small part of life. It is not about offering Him religious attention while keeping control over everything else.

To follow Christ is to surrender.

It is to say, “This life belongs to God now.”

That surrender is not loss.

It is freedom.

Because the life controlled by sin always leads to emptiness. But the life surrendered to God leads to peace, purpose, and true joy.

Chapter 6

Present Your Life to God

Romans gives a clear command: do not let sin reign in your body.

This means the believer has a responsibility.

Grace does not lead to passivity. Grace leads to obedience.

The body, the mind, the words, the desires, the habits, and the decisions of daily life are now to be offered to God.

A Christian cannot say, “My soul belongs to God, but my body belongs to me.”

The whole life belongs to Him.

This includes what is done in public and what is done in private. It includes speech, relationships, thoughts, entertainment, habits, work, money, and priorities.

The believer is called to stop offering the body to sin and start offering the body to God.

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This is not done by human strength alone.

The Holy Spirit gives power to live differently.

The Spirit helps the believer say no to sin and yes to God. The Spirit gives strength when the flesh is weak. The Spirit forms new desires and produces new fruit.

This is why spiritual growth is possible.

The Christian life is not simply trying harder. It is learning to walk by the Spirit.

The believer does not obey in order to earn grace.

The believer obeys because grace has already been given.

Chapter 7

The Meaning of Sanctification

Sanctification means being set apart for God and becoming more like Jesus.

It is the process of spiritual growth.

Justification happens when a person is made right with God by faith in Christ. Sanctification is the ongoing work of God in the believer's life.

It does not happen all at once.

Growth takes time.

A new believer may still struggle with old patterns. A mature believer may still face temptation. No Christian becomes sinless in this life.

But over time, there should be change.

The things of God should become more desirable. Sin should become less comfortable. The heart should become more sensitive. The desire to obey should grow stronger.

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Sanctification is evidence that grace is working.

It is not about perfection.

It is about transformation.

A person who has walked with Christ for years should be able to look back and see signs of growth. Not because they are strong in themselves, but because God has been working in them.

The Holy Spirit makes the believer more like Christ.

He changes desires. He convicts of sin. He strengthens obedience. He produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

This is the fruit of new life.

Chapter 8

Grace Is Not Legalism or License

There are two errors that often appear when people misunderstand grace.

The first is legalism.

Legalism says that relationship with God depends on rule-keeping, religious performance, and personal effort. It may speak about grace, but it lives as though everything depends on human behavior.

Legalism creates pride in those who think they are doing well and despair in those who know they are failing.

It makes little of grace.

The second error is license.

License says that because God forgives, sin does not matter. It treats grace as permission to continue living in rebellion.

License also makes little of grace.

It abuses the gift of God.

The gospel rejects both.

Grace is not legalism because salvation cannot be earned.

Grace is not license because salvation changes the heart.

True grace forgives and transforms. It brings the believer into a new relationship with God. It teaches the heart to love what God loves and turn away from what destroys.

The Christian life is not lived under the crushing weight of the law.

It is also not lived under the careless attitude of rebellion.

It is lived under grace.

And grace leads to holiness.

Chapter 9

The Gift That Costs Everything

Romans says that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Sin pays wages.

Those wages are death.

But God gives a gift.

That gift is eternal life.

A gift cannot be earned. It can only be received. Eternal life is not the reward for religious achievement. It is the gift of God through Jesus Christ.

But this gift changes everything.

To receive Christ is to surrender the old life. It is to stop living as the owner of oneself. It is to turn from sin and trust fully in Jesus.

Grace is free because Jesus paid the price.

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But receiving grace means the whole life now belongs to God.

This is not a contradiction.

It is the nature of true faith.

Faith does not simply agree with facts about Jesus. Faith receives Him as Savior and Lord. Faith trusts His death. Faith rests in His resurrection. Faith follows His way.

The old life must die.

The new life must begin.

This is the call of the gospel.

Conclusion

Alive to God

The Christian life begins with grace.

It continues by grace.

And it ends in glory because of grace.

The believer is not defined by the old life anymore. Sin is no longer the master. Shame is no longer the identity. The law is no longer the path to righteousness. Self-effort is no longer the foundation.

Christ is the foundation.

Through Him, the believer has peace with God.

Through Him, the old life has died.

Through Him, a new life has begun.

The call is now to live according to this truth: dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is not only a doctrine to understand.

It is a life to walk in.

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Every day, the believer is invited to remember: sin does not own this life anymore. The flesh does not rule this life anymore. The past does not define this life anymore.

This life belongs to God.

And the grace that saved is the same grace that strengthens, teaches, corrects, transforms, and leads the believer into true freedom.

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