

Freedom

BELIEVERS ARE FREED FROM THE POWER OF SIN.

Romans 6:1-14

1 What should we say then? Should we **continue in sin** **A** so that grace may multiply? **2 Absolutely not!** **B** How can we who **died to sin** **C** still live in it? **3** Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death?** **D** **4** Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the **likeness of his resurrection.** **E** **6** For we know that our **old self** **F** was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be **enslaved** **G** to sin, **7** since a person who has died is freed from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, **9** because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, **will not die again.** **H** Death no longer rules over him. **10** For the death he died, he died to sin **once for all time;** **I** but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11** So, you too **consider** **J** yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. **13** And do not offer any parts of it to sin as **weapons for unrighteousness.** **K** But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. **14** For sin will not rule over you, because you are not **under the law** **L** but under grace.

Exploring Key Words

- A** Ongoing, willful sin. Some argued for more sin as a way to experience more of God's grace.
- B** "God forbid" (KJV); "By no means!" (ESV; NIV). Paul was adamant in his denial that believers should continue in sin to promote grace.
- C** Not the elimination of sin, but a resistance to temptation. Sin no longer controls believers.
- D** Baptism symbolizes one's death to sin in Christ and resurrection to new life in Him (v. 4). See "Dig Deeper" on page 32.
- E** Believers experience new life because they share in Christ's resurrection, not just His death.
- F** "Old man" (KJV). Before Christ, believers were dominated by sin and rebelling against God.
- G** Slaves have no option beyond serving their masters. Believers have been released from the bondage of sin and are free to serve Christ as their new Master (see v. 7).
- H** Others have been raised from the dead, only to die again. Jesus, though, destroyed the power of death and will never die again.
- I** Jesus's sacrifice on the cross was final. His death is the sufficient payment for our sin. Nothing more is required to make salvation possible.
- J** "Reckon" (KJV); "Count" (NIV). An accounting term in Greek, Paul used it to emphasize a transformed mindset that recalculates the position of sin in one's life.
- K** "Instruments" (KJV; ESV). The Greek word typically relates to tools or implements used to fight a battle. See also 2 Corinthians 6:7; 10:4.
- L** The law multiplied the power of sin and death, while grace produces new life (Rom. 5:20-21).



Dead to Sin (Rom. 6:1-7)

- Paul asked rhetorically whether believers saved by grace should continue to sin so that grace may be demonstrated more.
- He emphatically said “no.” He explained that believers in Christ have died to sin and been raised to walk in newness of life.

Alive in Christ (Rom. 6:8-11)

- Paul emphasized that neither death nor sin have power over believers because of the resurrection of Christ. Through His death, we have died with Him, so we are able to live for Him.
- Jesus robbed sin of its power. Because Jesus died for us, we are called to consider ourselves dead to sin.

Instruments of Righteousness (Rom. 6:12-14)

- Paul admonished the believers in Rome to surrender themselves to God rather than to sin. In Christ, believers no longer have to yield themselves to the power of sin.
- He reminded them that they live not under the law but under grace, and God’s grace broke sin’s dominion over them. Therefore, they are free to serve God in every way.

Summary Statements

Believers are freed from the power of sin.

- Believers need to understand that they live in union with Christ and act accordingly.
- Believers are to consider themselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ.
- Believers are to offer themselves to God for the accomplishment of His righteous purposes.

Memory Verse

Romans 6:11

Key Doctrine

Baptism

Baptism is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer’s faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer’s death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. (See Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42.)



For additional commentary, see the Leader Guide or Adult Commentary, available for purchase at goExploreTheBible.com.

ENGAGE

In what ways would the promise of freedom make you happy? (PSG, p. 46)

- “Debt free” makes a happy sound in our hearts. So do the words “cancer free.” Each phrase brings up different realities. However, they share one word in common: free.
- Being liberated from debt can be a game changer. And anyone with cancer would be ecstatic to know it was gone. Of course, being freed from sin’s power brings the greatest joy.

Bonus: What comes to mind when you think of freedom? When have you felt most free?

EXPLORE

DEAD TO SIN (ROM. 6:1-7)

Bonus: Why do you believe baptism is an important part of the Christian life?

- Earlier, Paul affirmed that God’s grace multiplied in response to multiplied sin (Rom. 5:20). Here, he raised a probing question: *If believers wanted God’s grace to be multiplied, should they sin more?*
- Paul’s terse answer keeps us from pondering it for even one second: “Absolutely not!” The reason for such a stern response drives home the truth about the reign of sin in a believer’s life. When we gave our lives to Christ, we died to a way of life controlled by sin.
- Baptism serves as a reminder of our liberation from sin. It reminds us that giving our lives to Christ involves being buried with him and being raised to a new life in Him. Baptism is a picture that we have been changed by Jesus.
- Paul illustrated new life with the picture of slavery. Slaves to sin do not have the ability to liberate themselves from sin’s tyranny. Liberty from the reign of sin occurs only when a person turns to Christ by faith.

In what ways might people today misunderstand or misuse the concept of grace? (PSG, p. 49)

ALIVE IN CHRIST (ROM. 6:8-11)

Bonus: How do you deal with temptation? What helps you overcome tempting situations?

- Jesus’s death was only one part of the story. His crucifixion reflects our death to sin, but His resurrection means life for us. Because of Jesus’s resurrection, we are free from the power of sin. We are both justified (declared righteous) and sanctified (set apart for God’s purposes).
- Jesus’s resurrection was unique in the sense that He would not die again. Others had been raised from the dead (Luke 7:11-15; 8:49-55; John 11:38-44), but they all died again. Jesus would never die again, and those incorporated into His resurrection will not die spiritually again.

- Believers must consider themselves “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” The word “consider” is an accounting term. It could be translated as “count, credit, or think.” It carries the challenge to accept God’s words as true. We are dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus.

What does it mean to consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God? What does this look like practically in your life? (PSG, p. 51)

INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROM. 6:12-14)

Bonus: What are some weapons or tools a soldier needs to fight a battle effectively? What do believers need for spiritual battles?

- Along with eternity, salvation has practical implications for our lives now. Paul portrayed sin as a cruel taskmaster. Sin dominates those who live under its authority. But Christ ends the reign of sin in the lives of believers. Christians can serve God with their lives instead of surrendering to the evil desires of sin.
- Because sin no longer rules over us, we no longer need to worry about satisfying the demands of the law—or being condemned by it. We live under grace. By God’s grace, the penalty of death was satisfied in the death of Jesus on the cross.

In what ways do you still act as if sin is your master? How can you practically “offer” yourself to God today? (PSG, p. 53)

CHALLENGE

As a group, discuss the importance of baptism.

How does it symbolize your new life in Christ? How does recalling your baptism encourage you to remain focused on devoting yourselves to God? (PSG, p. 54)

Spend some time examining your personal walk with Christ.

How do you exhibit your new life in Him with your thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions? Where does God’s grace fit into your life as you try to devote yourself to Him each day? (PSG, p. 54)

FURTHER DISCUSSION



Scan here for additional discussion questions for this week’s study.

BIBLE SKILL (PSG, P. 53)

Create a compare/contrast chart.

On one side of a vertical line, identity words and phrases that describe life that is lived with sin as the monarch or ruling authority. On the other side, note words and phrases that describe life that is lived with God as the monarch or ruling authority. Use the first six chapters of Romans that we've covered so far to inform the list you make.

On the board, draw two columns ("Sin as Monarch" and "God as Monarch") as shown in the Bible Skill activity on page 53 of the PSG. Encourage the group to complete the activity by suggesting words and phrases for each column. Allow volunteers to share why those words and phrases are so significant to them. Remind the group that God has called His people to consider themselves dead to sin and to live in the power that only comes from Jesus's resurrection.

OBJECT LESSON: PASSPORT

Display a passport. Ask the group to describe the purpose of a passport. Talk about other forms of photo identification we might need in certain situations. (*Examples: driver's license or badge at work*)

Explain that photo identification helps us demonstrate who we are and where we live. Note that it provides a sense of belonging. Encourage adults to compare that to what Paul wrote about revealing our identity in Christ. Emphasize that, as followers of Christ, we should live as citizens of God's kingdom. Say: *Our identity should be rooted in our relationship with Jesus, and people should be able to tell that we belong to Him.*

Challenge adults to consider how well they are living out their "citizenship" in the world. Offer a brief prayer, asking God to show each adult what they need to do to die to their old way of living and to start living as kingdom citizens now.

BAPTISM

Baptism is not a step in the process of salvation. Rather, it serves as a public response to one's salvation. Scripture consistently presents baptism as an act of obedience that follows an individual's decision to follow Jesus Christ by faith. It is a believer's public testimony of dying to sin and being raised to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-4).

The New Testament pattern is clear: those who hear the gospel, repent, and believe are then baptized (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). Baptism is for believers, not infants. It is not a cultural tradition or a religious ritual. It is a declaration of personal faith and a symbol of a spiritual reality.

Baptism by immersion best reflects this truth. The Greek word *baptizō* means "to immerse" or "to dip," and that is the consistent practice demonstrated in the New Testament. Immersion portrays burial and resurrection. Going under the water symbolizes the death and burial of the old self. Rising out of the water represents new life in Christ. Without immersion, the powerful symbolism of Romans 6 is lost.

Though baptism has no power to save anyone, it is not optional. Jesus commanded it (Matt. 28:19), and the early church practiced it immediately after conversion. The outward act carries inward significance. It is a visible sign that someone now belongs to Christ. Refusing baptism is not a small issue. It implies resistance to the first command given to those who believe.

Baptism also identifies a believer with the body of Christ. While faith makes someone part of the universal church, baptism often marks entrance into a local fellowship. It signals a break from the old life and a commitment to follow Jesus alongside His people.

To summarize: baptism is by immersion, for believers only. It is done after salvation, as a symbol of union with Christ in His death and resurrection. Finally, it reflects an act of joyful obedience, not to earn salvation but to testify to it.