

Presumption of Grace

For some reason, when it comes to our relationship with God, there are a lot of Christians who have taken the position that since God extends His grace to me when I sin, I ought to keep on sinning so that I can get more of God's grace my life. On more than one occasion I have witnessed those who claim to be disciples of Jesus intentionally choose to do something they know to be sin and comment that it's OK because they know that God will forgive them.

There seems to be an inner desire that wants to presume, to do something based upon unknown or future consequence. To do something without proof. Christians frequently presumes to act, teach, and promote beyond what the Lord has written. We frequently see the following rationale offered to justify man's action, soothe his own conscience, and silence the inner plea to submit to God's Word:

- God is our Heavenly Father. He loves me! Does He not want me to be happy? I know my Father wants me to have this, because it will make me happy!
- God may have been strict in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament we are under a system of grace. Therefore, we are not in bondage to worry about keeping every law perfectly. We do not have to worry about tedious, detailed observances of any kind.
- Do you really think God would send me to hell just for doing this?
- Will God really condemn me for this one sin?
- What's so bad about doing this?
- Who will be hurt by doing that?
- No one will ever know about what I do.

True, God is our heavenly Father, and He dearly loves us; however, He seeks our best interest, which is not always what we want, what satisfies for the moment, or what makes us happy in this instant.

But we pull out the Big Bible and quote from Matthew 7:9-11

Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**

The assumption here is that we know more about what is good for us than God. We are assuming that we have judgment, clarity, foresight, knowledge, and wisdom paramount to God!

Since what we want and what God wants for us are often two distinct paths, only presumption would ignore God's revealed will for us in exchange for satisfying our palpitating desires.

What use shall we make of this sweet and comfortable doctrine? Shall we do evil that good may come, as some say we do?

Romans 6:1-14

Have to remember a few things:

1. This is being written to the Church in Rome

2. It is for the people who have associated themselves with the Church
3. The Roman church had a large number of Jewish converts
4. Most of these Jewish converts were very legalistic (the importance of the Law)
5. It is for the people who have made a decision to follow the teachings of the available scripture
6. It is for the people who have been justified
7. It is for the people who have been counted as righteous.
8. It is for the people who have been bought with a price

** Notice here

In this section Paul uses a number of past tense verbs to summarize what happened to every believer at the very moment we put our faith in Jesus:

...we who died to sin... (v. 2)

...were baptized... (v. 3)

We were buried... (v.4)

... our old self was crucified... (v. 6)

... one who has died... (v. 7)

... we have died... (v. 8)

These facts are true whether we know them or not and whether we feel them or not. These are not present tense verb that indicate something that is going on in our lives right now –

Paul does not say that we are currently dying.

They are not commands that instruct us to die.

Nor are they even exhortations that say we should die.

VERY IMPORTANT POINT HERE:

Verse 3

Baptized in Christ = Baptized into his death = Buried with Him= Raised with Him

We are in Christ

- It is more than just the present Jesus sitting on a throne at the right hand of the Father.
- It is more than angels and smoke.
- It is being a part of his life
- It is being angry at the desecration of the temple
- It is feeling compassion over Jerusalem
- It is seeing the 5,000 and feeling the responsibility and love to feed them all

- It is being betrayed while trying to pray
- It is being condemned
- It is being beaten
- It is being crucified
- It is being dead
- It is being raised
- It is coming again

We are shareholders, we are active participants in every even great and small

We share His work

We share his ministry.

1. In the past, we HAVE BEEN set free from the penalty of sin

Let's begin with verse 10.

- There Paul reminds us that Jesus died to sin once for all.
- Since we know that Jesus never sinned, what does Paul mean by that?
- We know that on the cross, Jesus temporarily took on all the sins of mankind.
- During the time He was subject to the penalty of sin.
- When He died on the cross, he satisfied the legal requirement for the penalty of our sin and paid that penalty on our behalf.
- He did that "once for all" so that we don't have to do anything at all to try and pay that penalty on our own.

2. In the present, I am set free from the power of sin

In verse 10, we see that Jesus not only died to sin once for all, but that in the present, "the life he lives he lives to God".

Jesus lives His life free from the cloud of our sin that was hung over Him right up until His death and resurrection. So there is a sense in which Jesus entered into a whole new way of life at that time.

The way that idea applies to us is explored further in **verse 6**, where we read that:

...our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin...

We don't just add Jesus to our lives, but instead Jesus radically transforms us into completely new beings. As he writes in verse 5, "we...walk in newness (Resurrection) of life". We're reminded here of these familiar words of Paul:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. II Corinthians 5:17

3. In the future I will be set free from the presence of sin

Although it is somewhat secondary to the main point Paul is making in this passage, verse 5 reveals that because we have been united with Jesus in His death, we will also be united with Him in His resurrection. It's important to note the verb that Paul uses there, as well as the verb in verse 8, when Paul writes "we will also live with him", are both future tense verbs.

Every disciple of Jesus will one day, just like Jesus, experience a bodily resurrection in which we will receive physical resurrection bodies that will live forever in the presence of God. And at that point, we will finally be set free from the presence of sin.

So back to the question of "Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase"

The movement from life to death is no small formality.

It is a breakthrough, It is an end and a beginning at the same time.

It was a breakthrough.

It was moving from one country to another.

"And the environment of death no longer is tolerable."

In our new country we only bring Christ's life and our will.

How then shall we live

Romans 6:11-14

That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God. (MESSAGE)

1. Let's start with the fact that while It's Simple, It's not Easy Isn't that the reality of life. In case you are wondering I have lost right around 70 lbs in the past 22 months. Actually people will often ask how much weight I've lost and I tell them a thousand pounds, but recently 70.

I have discovered that losing weight is simple, but it's not easy. All you have to do to lose weight is to consume fewer calories than your body needs. That's simple. You figure out how many calories your body needs each day to maintain your present weight and then you eat less than that.

"In theory there is no difference between theory and practice, in practice there is."

And so in theory, living a holy life is simple. You simply do what God wants you to do. Done. But what about in practice?

2. The next reality here is that It's Something You Have to Do

Nobody else can do it for you and you can't do it for anyone else.

You are the only one that can die to sin in your life.

Your wife can't do it for you. Not your Pastor or even your neighbor.

It is my decision. My deciding to live a holy life, that is a life that is in the center of God's will and obedient to God's will.

And while God can't or won't do it for you, in the sense that he won't take away your free will and force you to live a holy life, He's willing to help in the form of the Holy Spirit. With God's help you can do it. Do you believe that? But you have to want to. And it is a partnership.

Here is the mystery of that partnership. You can change your mind but you can't change your heart. Only God can change a person's heart. But God can't, or more correctly, won't change your mind, that is the free will aspect of the relationship. And God won't change your heart until you change your mind. You have to want to change, you have to want to enter into the relationship.

- Living in the life of Christ is not a piece of confectionery to be put upon drawing-room tables, or a garment to be worn on Sundays; it is a working principle, to be used in the back yard and in the front yard, in the office and on the car; it is a grace for the plumber and the president; it is for the biggest house and for the homeless." And the person who will make that decision to live an obedient and holy life will be you.
- But it wasn't only Paul who used the cross and crucifixion as a metaphor for living obediently as a Christ follower. One day when Jesus was preaching to the crowds he told them. [Luke 9:23](#) Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. How often did Jesus say we'd have to take up our cross and follow him? Daily. So choosing to live a holy obedient life isn't something that's done once, It's Something You Have to Do Everyday
- Jesus knew that if our Christian life was going to be successful then it need to be an ongoing commitment. And it starts each day when you give your day to God and reaffirm your commitment to live in obedience to His will for your life.
- And that isn't a long list of rules. One day an expert in the religious law asked Jesus what the most important commandment was. And Jesus replied by saying [Matthew 22:37-40](#) Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."
- And we don't always get it right, sometimes we blow it, we say something or do something we regret and we know is wrong. Sometimes on my weight loss journey I blow it, and often like when we blow it in our spiritual lives it is often intentional.

I know I shouldn't do it, I know that eating a whole banana crème Pie is not good. I have never ate a whole pie saying to myself it is fruit and therefore it is good for me.

But if that happens, I have two choices. I can say "Wow I blew it; I guess I'll never get this weight loss thing" and give up and pretty soon I'll weigh what I used to weigh. Sound familiar?

Or I can say "Wow, I blew it, tomorrow I'm going to do better."

The bible tells us in [1 John 2:1-2](#) My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

Live no longer in Sin v2 – no longer live in the corruption the just sentence of Sin. They are gone. They exist no more. No more regret, no more guilt, no more recounting. IT IS OVER. No more the imputation of Sin. Personal sin

The body of sin must be destroyed V6 – The corruption that lives in us. Elimination of the habits and inclinations must be weakened and destroyed. Kill the oppressor. The one that would accuse you, the one that would drag you back. With God's help Can't do it by yourself.

We must be dead indeed unto sin V11- No more caressing the corpse of the past

Sin must not reign in our mortal bodies that we should obey V12 No more rulers other than God.

We must not yield our members as instruments of unrighteousness V13