

# WHAT!!?? ??

## Shall we Continue in Sin?

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What shall we say then?

Shall we continue in sin,  
that grace may abound? **Romans 6:1**

Should we let the abounding of grace pass away so that we can sin? That doesn't sound right, does it?

This is dealing with those who somehow want to continue in sin and look for an excuse. The Bible would give them a clear answer: God forbid! God forbid that we should have such an attitude like this.

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God forbid.

How shall we, that are dead to sin,  
live any longer therein? **Romans 6:2**

Here's another question given for us to consider: how shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

This is a touchy realm for a lot of people.

They want to serve the Lord, but they also want to continue doing the sinful things they've been doing, continue to live the lifestyle they've been living - with no thought of their place of standing with the Lord.

We're not in this walk with Him so that we might continue living in sin and then go to heaven.

Look carefully at what this verse says. It gives us an answer to the question of whether or not we should continue living in sin that grace may abound.



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*God forbid!* Take that to heart. How shall we, that are dead to sin . . .

Are you dead to sin? Is it possible to be dead to sin?

Listen, you don't have to sin. Those who sin generally want to sin. They don't want to cease from sin. They don't want to turn away from their ungodly ways.

They're not going to go very far before they run into problems and calamities - because they are not living by the Word.

How shall we, that are dead to sin,  
live any longer therein?

Know ye not, that

so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ  
were baptized into His death? *Romans 6:2, 3*

*Baptized into His death*

This is something you don't want to forget.

When you were baptized, going down into the water, you were baptized into Jesus' death. Take that to heart.

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. *Romans 6:4*

*Therefore we are buried!*

With death there comes a burial. And when we go down to the water to be baptized, we are going into the water to be buried. Water baptism is a burial of the old man, of the old life, the old ways.

When we are buried with Jesus in baptism unto death, we are raised to walk in newness of life - like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father.

Out there in the world people are daily walking in that raunchy, old way of life. They are not living as God would want them to live.

They are on their own, doing their own thing - apart from God. And what is it going to get them?

When we are born again, receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we don't want to stay in that old realm any longer.

We rise up out of the watery grave to walk in newness of life with Jesus.

Salvation brings a newness of life into those who turn to the Lord, those who stand firm to believe and to follow Him. They no longer want to walk in that old way.

So, water baptism has its place in the life of a believer, being buried with Jesus - and going on to walk in newness of life.



When Jesus was raised up from the dead, He was raised by the glory of His Father.

And since we are buried with Christ by baptism unto death - we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together  
in the likeness of His death,  
we shall be also in the likeness  
of His resurrection . . . **Romans 6:5**

### *In the likeness of His death*

When Jesus came into this world, His life was really brought down. We can't imagine someone being beaten like He was beaten. They did all they could to hurt Him. They beat Him, slapped Him, spit in His face, pulled out His hair.

We need to think much about what has happened to us because of what Jesus went through, knowing it was for us. He took our place.

### *In the likeness of His death*

### *In the likeness of His resurrection*

One day, we're going up. We're going to be caught up. When we believe this truth, how it can inspire our heart to think about the greatness of what is going to happen one day - that day when Jesus comes, and we're taken up!

Thank God for His goodness. Thank God for what He has provided for us.

Romans 6:6 . . . [knowing this](#),

- that our old man is crucified with Him,
- that the body of sin might be destroyed,
- that henceforth we should not serve sin.

*Our old man is crucified with Him*

Do you really have an old man and a new man?

Yes, there is that old man. You lived in the realm of that old man - and now there is a new man, created in Christ Jesus.

We want to take time to recognize this fact: we were planted together in the likeness of His death - and we shall also rise in the likeness of His resurrection.

I want to be ready for that resurrection. I don't want to be doing something so that my attention is taken away to the world and to the things of the world.

I don't want to be in the place where that's all I'm thinking of, where I'm no longer thinking about the day when the resurrection will take place.

One day, those who are found ready and watching will be caught up. Imagine being caught up, taken up in that great resurrection! Those who have been in the grave for centuries will be rising in their new body, as well as those of us who are alive and remain to that day.

*Henceforth we should not serve sin.*

There's a lot of serving sin in many lives. So many Christians don't think it's important to walk in newness of life. For many people, it seems to be the attitude of our day not to be serious in their walk.

You don't want to be in the place where you're seeking to do things that are contrary to the Word of God. You've got to be careful here. If you're not careful, you might stumble over some of those stumbling stones.

From this day onward you should not serve sin.

You have to watch that for yourself. It's your life, and you're the one who is the guardian of that life.

It's **your** life.

It's **your** mind.

It's **your** body.

It's **your** soul.

You've got to watch and take care of your life. If you want things to come out right, you've got to put it in right. You've got to look at your life and ask,

*What am I doing?*

*What am I really doing with my life?*

*Am I truly giving it to Jesus?*

*Am I really taking to heart*

*the need to destroy that old man?*

Know that your old man is crucified with Jesus, that the body of sin might be destroyed - and that henceforth you should no longer serve sin.

Sin is something that people serve. It becomes a master in their lives.

Have you ever been in a bondage from which you couldn't get out? You couldn't break it? It was like a chain to you?

A drunken man wakes up in the morning, and it's a beautiful day - but the first thing in his world is that he has to have a drink. He can't wait. He's got to have it right now.

He's got to have alcohol in his system. He's running on it. How does he break such a bondage?

The Scriptures make us to know that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

### *The need for separation*

Now, the Scriptures have much to say about the need for separation. We've got to separate ourselves from sin, separate ourselves from the ungodly, separate ourselves from the world.

Wherefore come out from among them,  
and be ye separate, saith the Lord,  
and touch not the unclean thing;  
and I will receive you . . . 2 Cor 6:17

If you don't want to go this way, why don't you  
say it right out?

*I'm going to do what I want to do -  
even if it costs me my soul!  
I'm just going to do it MY way.*

People are so prone to not want to listen when it  
comes to separation. Does the Bible teach  
separation? Or is just man's idea?

You've got an obligation to get out your Bible,  
and sit down and study it out; see if the Bible  
really speaks to you about a separation from the  
world.

For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Romans 6:7

You can't walk in newness of life and still be  
living in sin.

*Are you dead? You should be.*

Yes, you should be dead unto sin, but alive unto  
God through your faith in Jesus.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that  
we shall also live with Him: knowing that Christ  
being raised from the dead dieth no more; death  
hath no more dominion over Him. Romans 6:8, 9

Do you want to live with Jesus? Know that your  
old man is crucified with Him, that the body of  
sin might be destroyed, that henceforth you  
should not serve sin.

And if you are dead to sin, then you should be  
living with Jesus, walking in His footsteps.

I remember my dad and his old snowshoes. You  
could climb up on the back of those old  
snowshoes . . . and walk with him right on top of  
the snow.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead  
indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Romans 6:11

*Reckon yourself to be dead unto sin*

Just count it so: dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Dead unto sin*

*But alive unto God*

Keep that old man down in the grave where he belongs. Don't let him gain control in your life again.

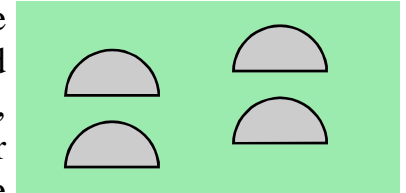
The old man had control over your body. Just look at the world and you can see how men are taken over by their old man. We who are saved, though, are to reckon ourselves dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus.

Now, back in verse nine: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead **dieth no more**; death hath no more dominion over Him.

What happens when you're raised from the dead? With Christ, it meant dying no more. What does it mean for you?

Think about that: the glory of being raised from the dead. Would you like to be lying in a box in the cemetery?

You know, your life is like it's in two parts: this old body is going to the grave, but the other part of your life and who you are (the spirit) . . .



This is what brought life into this body - the Spirit of God. You don't want to be that old person, serving the body of sin any longer.

In this life, we face death. Someone we love is placed in the box to be buried in the ground. Multitudes have gone that way.

Bodies have laid in those boxes for centuries. By now they are mere skeletons.

Somebody used to live in those skeletons. Where are they now? We don't know if they went up or down - whether they went to heaven or to hell.

But we do know this:

for the saved, **to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord** - 2 Cor 5.

Do you believe that?

This shows you that death isn't the end, in which you have this experience at the grave of being buried - and that's it. When we are dead with Christ, we shall also live with Him.

Christ being raised from the dead dies no more. He's not going to die again.

**For in that He died, He died unto sin once:**

**but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God.** Rom 6:10

And this is what you want to do: live unto God. Everything about your life should be for God. Everything you do ought to have some tie to your spiritual life.

You ought to be thinking about this more. When you're busy making plans for other things, take time to make plans for something that will really bless your soul.

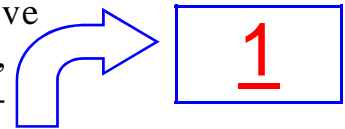
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Romans 6:11, 12

*Let not sin reign*

Should sin, somehow, have a thing around your neck? Should you be tied down by some sinful thing, where sin has dominion over you? where you've lost control? where sin controls you?

*Reckon* - it may not be a fact right now, but reckon it to be so, consider it to be so. And don't let sin reign in your body.

You don't want to make blunders in your life that would cause you to have to go back to square one, back to where you started - and then start all over again.



Square one is where you starts after you get saved, starting down this road with Jesus - but then, temptations pull on you, snares are in your path. And you are tempted to draw away.

What can you do? Get in that place of standing, determined not to allow that to happen to you, not to allow sin to reign any longer in your mortal body to obey it in the lusts thereof.

Paul faced some things that weren't very easy. To look at him, you'd think he was an iron man, that nothing could make him flinch.

But that's not so.

When the Lord confronted Paul on the road to Damascus, he had been fighting God, rather than serving God. He went quite a ways down that road, bringing a lot of hurt upon others. People lost their lives, others were beaten and put in prison - and he thought he was serving God.

We never want to get in the realm of *thinking* we're serving God.

*I believe that's God.* To some, everything is a matter of believing that's God. Watch out! Everything is not God. Don't bring everything into the realm of *That's God!* - *That's not God!*

We should be able to discern a little more carefully whether something's God, or not God. If we don't, we may be led astray.

We have to be careful that we don't put a label for everything we see or feel or talk about, that it is or isn't God.

Everything is not God. Don't be so quick to speak without ever taking time to search the Word to see if it really is God.

Take the time if you want to know, realizing that often it does take time to discern whether something is God or not.

Know that sometimes it could be that it is not God. Sometimes it could be you, just your imagination.

There are times when you wouldn't really know if something was God or not, unless you searched it out and prayed through. Without searching it out to see what God has to say about it, you could go a long time without knowing that you're believing something that is a lie.

The devil is a liar, and the father of lies. And some things are the devil deceiving people to believe his lies.

But we also want to be careful that we don't turn this around and start saying that everything is the devil - that's being demon-minded.

### Paul had his struggles

Now, let's look at the life of Paul, and see where he had his struggles when he first started serving the Lord.

Things didn't change immediately for Paul. He had to face some things, and deal with them. In Romans chapter 7 we find Paul looking back at that time in his life.

For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:15 -17

This sounds mixed up - yet it was a reality to Paul at the time. He was in the place where he didn't understand the things of the Spirit of God, and it troubled him.

He still had to learn some things.

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. *Romans 6:24, 25*

*O wretched man that I am!*

Paul didn't know how to be free. He was missing something.

He had turned to the Lord. Yet life was such that he said he was a wretched man. It was a great trouble to his life.

But, then, Paul finally found that God had a cure, God had an answer -

*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord*

He's beginning to understand the conflict now.

And what made the difference was that he was filled with the Spirit of God, and beginning to walk in the Spirit.

There is therefore now no condemnation  
to them which are in Christ Jesus,  
who walk not after the flesh,  
but after the Spirit. *Romans 8:1*

Things began to change in Paul's life. There were all those blessings that came, showing him that the thing that had been lacking was the Holy Spirit.

He no longer walked after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Prior to this chapter, this was lacking. And now we find the Spirit mentioned in verse after verse.

Many a time this is what is needed - to no longer walk after the flesh, but begin to walk after the Spirit, in the newness of life.

## The Grace that Saves



Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God  
Was sent to earth by His Father above  
He came with truth and grace  
One day, may we behold His glorious face  
He died on the tree for the sins of all men  
Open your heart, and let Him in  
He taught us to deny all ungodliness  
and worldly lust  
Why should we ever fume or fuss?  
To live soberly, righteously, godly in this life  
That we may live above reproach and strife  
To have the blessed hope of eternal life  
A beautiful home so fair and so bright.

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