

GRACE ... LICENSE TO *NOT* SIN
PART 1 ROMANS CHAPTER SIX

Romans 6:1-2

*What shall we say then? Shall **we continue in sin** that grace may abound? ² Certainly not!
How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

There's a modern-day term describing hard-hitting questions used by a journalist when they try to trap an interviewee it's called, '**Gotcha Questions**'

If a politician has been declaring a strong stand on some issue ... the journalist sets out to trap him with a series of trick questions designed to expose the inconsistency of his policy

These are 'Gotcha questions'.

The Pharisees & teachers did it with Jesus regarding the woman caught in adultery, trying to show, His message of forgiveness violated The Law of Moses.

John 8:4-6 SLIDE

"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

⁶ *They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him ... NLT*

Of course The truth of God came through with flying colours ... upholding forgiveness & the law & actually exposing the religious leader's hypocrisy.

Re paying Taxes: Matthew 22:15 / Luke 20:20

QUESTIONS ARE NEVER A THREAT TO THE TRUTH ... THEY ARE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IT TO SPEAK, REASON & REVEAL

Of course the worst 'Gotcha Question', impossible to get out of is when a wife, after seeing a young, thin lady, asks her husband 'do you wish you were married to someone like that ... someone thinner & younger?'

*The husband naively answers, 'No darling, I like you just the way you are'
Oh, so you think I'm fat & old!!!*

Romans 6:1 SLIDE

*What shall we say then? Shall **we continue in sin** that grace may abound?*

THIS IS A 'GOTCHA QUESTION' RELATING TO WHAT PAUL DECLARED IN ROMANS 5:20 '... where sin abounded, grace abounded much more'.

Paul brings this question up knowing people who are ignorant of how the gospel of grace works, will ask. He exposes this ridiculous question / challenge, not just for his sake, but for all 'grace-believers' who will be attacked by religious ignorance.

TODAY WE SEE THIS QUESTION EXPRESSED IN DIFFERENT WAYS as follows:

You are encouraging people to keep sinning. You are giving people a license to sin! This is 'greasy grace' 'Cheap Grace' 'Free grace'. A THEOLOGICAL TERM CALLED, ANTINOMIANISM SLIDE

All these bitter & cynical terms are used to denounce & discredit the 'Grace Gospel'.

They said of Martin Luther (The founder of the Protestant reformation), 'This man who is a priest has changed the doctrine in order to justify his own lust.

George Whitfield, C H Spurgeon & Dr Martin Lloyd Jones were all accused of 'giving people an excuse to sin'. In fact Dr M L Jones wrote,

'There is no better test as to whether a man is really preaching the New Testament gospel of salvation than this, that some people might misunderstand it and misinterpret it to mean ... because you are saved by grace alone it does not matter at all what you do; you can go on sinning as much as you like because it will redound all the more to the glory of grace ...

I would say to all preachers: If your preaching of salvation has not been misunderstood in that way, then you had better examine your sermons again, and you had better make sure that you really are preaching the salvation that is offered in the New Testament...'

You ought to live your life with such freedom and joy that uptight Christians will doubt your salvation." Steve Brown, [A Scandalous Freedom](#)

WHAT IS THE ISSUE THAT PEOPLE ARE SO UPSET ABOUT

Romans 5:20 SLIDE

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. NLT

THE INFERENCE IS ... YOU CAN'T OUT-SIN GRACE

No matter how great your sin is ... Grace is much greater & will set you free

'My sin was great your love was greater ... ' (WHAT BEAUTIFUL NAME)

THE GRACE MESSAGE ATTACKS THE VERY FOUNDATION OF RELIGIOUS SELF-ATTAINMENT WHICH SOME PEOPLE HAVE SPENT THEIR WHOLE LIFE DOING.

Is it any wonder some of them react with cynical statements such as ...

OH, YOU'RE TELLING ME, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I DO ... GRACE WILL FORGIVE ME I MAY AS WELL STOP TRYING & GIVE INTO SIN NOW ... JUST ENJOY MYSELF ...

*Well ... we may as well just cast all caution to the wind and just do what we like & grace will rescue us again 'Stuff' trying to do right. **JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT***

THESE PEOPLE ONLY SEE 'SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS OR SIN' AND THE ONLY WAY TO COMBAT SIN IS **TO TRY HARDER ... PRAY LONGER ... SERVE MORE ... TRY & KEEP THE LAW**

THEY ARE 'ELDER BROTHERS'

After a magnificent display of mercy & grace shown to the prodigal son when he returned home ... we hear the elder brother react in a similar fashion ...

Luke 15:28-30 **SLIDE**

The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him,²⁹ but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends.³⁰ Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'

Can you hear the implied statement ...

I MAY AS WELL JUST GO & SIN LIKE HIM SO I CAN GET ALL THE BLESSING & LOVE

NB: The father is still the father of many religious people ... He has compassion on the religious elder brothers & **begs them** to come into His grace. **Come & join The Grace Party!**

Our mandate is to reach out with the Good News to all people ... especially those who have been fed the lies about Law all their Christian life.

One lady who came & heard this message of grace had been trying to live a good Baptist life for years. She came forward with her husband for prayer after the message ... weeping. I asked what was wrong. She said, 'after all these ...' years again & again ... 'why didn't somebody tell me before about the grace.' I rejoiced that she had had a revelation of 'The Gospel of Grace'.

PAUL NOW BEGINS TO SHOW US. IT'S NOT JUST SIN OR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS ... IT'S THE WAY OF GRACE

HE BEGINS TO REVEAL HOW THIS GRACE WORKS TO SAVE US FROM SIN

HE REVEALS ... WE DIED TO SIN

Romans 6:1-2 **SLIDE**

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

GRACE DIDN'T ABOUND BECAUSE WE **LIVED IN SIN**
GRACE ABOUNDED BECAUSE WE **DIED TO SIN.**

WHAT DOES HE MEAN? **WE DIED TO SIN**

WE DIED TO THE REALM OF SIN ... WE DIED to its oppression WE DIED to its guilt ... WE DIED to its confusion ... WE DIED to its evil ... WE DIED to its fear WE DIED to its bondage & slavery ... WE DIED to its continuous sorrow ...

IT WAS EXPOSED BEFORE OUR EYES BY GRACE ...

DECEPTION WAS UNCOVERED ... **THE UGLINESS WAS SEEN** ... THE CONTAMINATION WAS FELT. **WE BEGAN TO BE REPULSED** ... MANY OF US WEPT
HOW COULD WE GO BACK TO SUCH FILTH & SORROW.

*AS ONE PERSON SAID, WE DIDN'T REALISE HOW POOR WE WERE WE'D GROWN
ACCOMSTOMED TO POVERTY FOR SO LONG.*

WE WERE TAKEN OUT OF THAT FALLEN HERITAGE AND PLACED INTO CHRIST
THAT OLD STAINED MAN WAS KILLED & A NEW PRISTINE PERSON EMERGED ALL CLEAN
HOW COULD WE GO BACK?

WE WERE DELIVERED OUT OF A REALM OF DEATH & CONVEYED INTO A REALM OF LIFE

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Romans 6:14 **SLIDE**

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE DIED TO SIN

WHEN DID WE DIE TO SIN?

THE MOMENT WE BELIEVED ... WE DIED TO SIN

- He doesn't say, we who are dying to sin. He says, we who **already died** to sin
It is a completed act done once and forever.
- He doesn't say (as the KJV wrongly puts it), 'We who have died to sin' as if its some standard we've achieved over time & maturity.
It's 'WE WHO DIED'

HOW DID WE DIE TO SIN?

We died **to sin** through the death of Jesus Christ.

When He died, He died vicariously **to sin** for you and me (Romans 6:6)

**NOTICE HERE ... WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT JESUS DYING *FOR* OUR SINS
which He also did. See 1 Corinthians 15:3**

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT JESUS DYING *TO* SIN

Romans 6:10-11

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**WE DIED *TO* THE REALM OF SIN
WE CAME ALIVE *TO* THE REALM OF GRACE**

Romans 6:1-2 SLIDE

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not!
[Because we died to sin] How shall we live any longer in it? (Paraphrased)*

THERE IS NO GOING BACK

**THE FACT IS ... NOW BEING REGENERATED ... WE DON'T WANT TO SIN ANYMORE ... EVEN
IF WE FAIL ... SOMETHING IN US HATES IT. THIS IS WHAT PAUL MEANS ...**

WE DIED TO THAT REALM OF SIN & DEATH ... *HOW CAN WE LIVE IN IT AGAIN?*

*A person I heard about was delivered from years of chain smoking ... a real experience ...
of deliverance from addiction*

*they said, after a few days the experience had settled down they were tempted & lit up a
cigarette ... the next minute they were vomiting ... the stick made them sick*

**SO IT IS WHEN THE PERSON DELIVERED FROM THE SIN REALM TRIES TO GO BACK
INSIDE THERE IS REPULSION**

A NEW CREATION PERSON STILL TRYING TO LIVE IN SIN IS NOT BEING REAL

THEY ARE NOT BEING TRUE TO WHO THEY REALLY ARE – like the prodigal son

Luke 15:17

*And when **he came to himself**, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread
enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*

SLIDE

NB Galatians 5:19 tells us about THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

**These to the Christian are ongoing sins you have to MAKE AN EFFORT TO
KEEP UP. IT IS WORK ... IT'S NOT NATURAL TO YOUR NEW NATURE.**

Galatians 5:22 tells us about '**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

This is something that **organically grows** so beautifully & wonderfully in us

Works of self-righteousness Galatians 5:4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace

SIN IS NOT A PART OF OUR NEW NATURE ANYMORE ... THAT MAN THAT SINNED IS ACTUALLY DEAD & THAT DEAD MAN CANNOT SIN ANYMORE.

WE CAME ALIVE IN THE REALM OF GRACE

Colossians 2:13 **SLIDE**

When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God **made you alive with Christ**. He forgave us all our trespasses,

THE GIFT OF IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

ROMANS 4:11 SPEAKS OF IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS (paid into our account)

ROMANS 5:1 SPEAKS OF DECLARED RIGHTEOUSNESS

ROMANS 5:17 SPEAKS OF IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS ... THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IMBUED INTO US ...

ROMANS 5:17 **SLIDE**

*For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)*

NB: He didn't wait till I was doing good ... and not doing wrong ...

GOD IMPARTED HIS GRACE RIGHTEOUSNESS THE MOMENT I BELIEVED

SUDDENLY I HAVE AN INTERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS ...

AN INTERNAL DESIRE TO FOR EVERYTHING GOD LOVES & Declares right

1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not

Notice the order : This is not trying to NOT sin ... This is waking up to Righteousness

ROMANS 5:19

*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be **made righteous**.*

GRACE IS THE POWER TO LIVE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Corinthians 5:21

*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be **made the righteousness** of God in him.*

A person who has died to the realm of sin & death & come alive to the realm of Grace has a new heart ... The law is written on their new heart ... so it is with every believer

Ezekiel 36:26-27

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put **My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes**, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

A NEW CAPACITY TO LOVE & SERVE GOD

Hebrews 10:16-17

*This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put **My laws into their hearts**, and in their minds I will write them," ¹⁷ then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

NEW DESIRES FOR GOD & HIS LAW

THAT PERSON CAN DO WHAT HE OR SHE PLEASES BECAUSE WHAT THEY PLEASE IS WHAT PLEASES GOD WHICH IS WRITTEN ON THEIR HEART. THEY DESIRE TO DO RIGHTEOUSLY
I was glad when they said, let us go to the house of the Lord

Psalm 1 (written about Jesus Christ's life on earth ... **'His delight** is in the law of the Lord & in the Law does He meditate day & night

WHY??? BECAUSE HE HAD TO? NO

BECAUSE HE NEEDED TO? NO

BECAUSE HE WANTED TO... **HE WAS IN LOVE WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS BECAUSE RIGHTEOUSNESS WAS IN HIM**

YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS & HATED INIQUITY

Psalm 45:7 **SLIDE**

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you above your companions with the oil of joy. (Hebrews 1:9)

Notice 'loving righteousness' comes before 'hating wickedness'. That's because, the desire of our new heart is to love righteousness and as a result we automatically hate wickedness. We don't try and hate wickedness so we can love righteousness. If we fall in love with God's righteousness, we won't have a problem with wickedness.

THIS IS BEING DEAD TO THE REALM OF SIN & LIVING IN THE REALM OF GRACE ...