

Raised To Life

What Are You Doing?

Romans 6:1-14

Pastor Dwayne Smith

- I. **THINK:** *“Should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not!”*
- a. Paul is asking a rhetorical question.
 - b. The answer is often obvious (or it should be). “Of course not!”
 - c. Their “question” revealed that they had not thought it through.
 - i. They still did not understand grace.
 - ii. Paul’s audience was trying to combine the law with grace; old with new.
 - d. Their question revealed a lack of an understanding of the Gospel.
 - i. We die to sin and live for Christ.
 - ii. “Keep on sinning” and “living in grace” are opposite of each other.
 - iii. It’s like someone gives you a new house, but you keep paying rent.
 - e. Grace has been provided in order to receive the Gospel.
 - i. If I have not walked through the door of grace, I have not received the Gospel.
 - ii. Grace is an invitation to hear the voice of Jesus – calling us to follow Him.
 - iii. We “join” with Jesus. Jesus didn’t die to be an “enabler” in our lives. Jesus died in order to empower us!
- II. **GROW:** *“Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life.”*
- a. Paul is outlining how we are to grow in Christ – “raised to life!” (verse 5)
 - b. Before being raised with Christ, we die with Christ.
 - i. Death precedes life and is involved in attaining freedom (John 12:24).
 - ii. God is not out to suppress sin; He is out to KILL it.
 - c. In order to grow, you have to be set free from bondage.
 - i. God is relentless with sin because of its nature: dominate and destroy.
 1. Sin is like a debt. Debt is set up to grow, to never go away.
 2. Paul is saying that we need to **completely** die to sin so that “sin might lose its power” over us.
 3. *Katargeō*: Unemployed, inoperative, devoid of force power and influence, abolished, terminated.¹
 - ii. Paul compares sin’s power to slavery:
 1. Slavery in Rome differed from modern slavery – it was not based on race. In Rome, as many as 2/3rds of the population were slaves.

¹ Blue Letter Bible

2. Slave (dou'lo): referred to one who sold themselves into slavery for employment or debt repayment. The most common form in Rome.
- d. Freedom can be difficult:
 - i. The longer that you have been in bondage, the more difficult it is to walk in freedom (this can be surprising and difficult to understand).
 - ii. When all that you have known is slavery, freedom is difficult/stressful.
 1. Israelites – Prayed for freedom and God set them free. Difficulties caused them to long for slavery (Exodus 14:12; 16:3).
 2. Institutionalized prisoners – Long term prisoners struggle when released. (Craig Haney, University of California)²
 3. American Slavery – “The wild rejoicing on the part of the emancipated coloured people lasted but for a brief period...there was a strange and peculiar attachment to [slave owners].”³ Booker T. Washington.

III. PURPOSE: “...give yourselves completely to God...use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.”

- a. The power in living free is living for God: “Use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.” (verse 13)
 - i. You are an instrument: an instrument was designed for a specific purpose.
 - ii. An instrument that is not used breaks.
 - iii. “Playing the instrument well” requires surrender.
- b. To “live” free you have to “act” on the freedom.
- c. Freedom through grace. “Live under the freedom of God’s grace” (verse 14).
 - i. Grace gives us the opportunity to live how we were meant to live.
 - ii. God has given us talents. Grace enables us to pursue them.
- d. If all you do is remove the bonds, you may find yourself quickly returning to them.
 - i. Cycle of addiction: Whatever is unhealthy needs to not be just removed, it needs to be replaced with what is healthy.
 - ii. God becomes our Master.

Reflection Questions:

- Do I understand grace? How does my life reveal that I have received grace?
- Are there areas of my life where I am still in bondage? Why?
- Do I know the purpose that God has for my life? What steps is God calling me to take in walking “dead to sin” and living out His purpose in me?

² <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/psychological-impact-incarceration-implications-post-prison-adjustment>

³ Washington, Booker T., *Up from Slavery* (Dover Thrift Editions) (p. 11). Dover Publications.