# “Grace and Sin”

### Discovering the Righteousness of God—A study in the book of Romans

# Pastor Shaun McDonald

# Romans 5:20-6:7 (ESV)

**20**Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21**so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**6**What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3**Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4**We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**5**For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6**We know 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. **7For one who has died has been set free from sin.**

**1) Grace does NOT equal freedom to sin (VS 6:1-2)**

# 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 (ESV)

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. **2**And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

# 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (ESV)

**9**I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— **10**not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. **11**But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. **12**For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? **13**God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

# James 3:2 (ESV)

**2**For we all **stumble** in many ways. And if anyone does not **stumble** in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

# 1 John 3:9 (ESV)

**9**No one born of God **makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot **keep on sinning** because he has been born of God

**Baptize** – Greek “*baptizō*“, literally means “*immerse*.”

**Used in 2 ways in this text:**

Metaphorically – As when one is immersed in their work.

Literally – As when one was immersed in water baptism.

“If his readers do not understand what it means to die to sin, they do not understand what baptism means, and baptism comes right at the beginning of the Christian life… Christians are people who have died, and their baptism emphasizes that death.”

- Leon Morris, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary*

**2) Grace DOES equal freedom from sin (VS 6:3-7)**

# Ephesians 4:17-24 (ESV)

**17**Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. **18**They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **19**They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **20**But that is not the way you learned Christ! — **21**assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **22**to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23**and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24**and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

# John 8:31-36 (ESV)

**31**So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, **32**and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” **33**They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

**34**Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.** **35**The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. **36**So **if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed**.

“When Paul speaks of baptism here, he is thinking both of our spiritual identification with Christ and of its portrayal in water baptism. But as the argument advances, he seems to shift his emphasis in a special way to water baptism as he reminds his readers how they were “buried” and “planted together” in the “likeness” of Christ’s death.

The NT never contemplates the abnormal situation of the unbaptized believer. It assumes that those who are converted submit to baptism right away. Thus our Lord could speak of faith and baptism in the same breath: “he who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). Though baptism is not a requirement for salvation, it should be the invariable public sign of it.”

-William MacDonald, The Believer’s Bible Commentary

“In the NT, baptism is the immediate public expression of one’s conversion to Christ . . . Though Paul’s focus is not on the rite of baptism itself but on what it signifies, he assumes that all those who call themselves Christians have been baptized.

In the New Testament times, Christian baptism—usually in the form of immersion—seems to have been understood as the public expression of one’s confession of Christ and was not considered optional . . . As a result, in the New Testament baptism is often spoken of in the context of conversion; it served as the public declaration of a person’s conversion.”

-Roger Mohrlang, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary

**See also Acts 241-42 in conjunction with Matthew 28:18-20**