

Victory over Sin: Overcoming Lust (Rom. 6:12-14)

I. REVIEW: OVERVIEW OF ROMANS 6: THE TRANSFORMED LIFE

- A. Romans 6 is the main chapter in the Scripture that teaches us about personal transformation. It tells us how to practically access, or experience, the power, favor, and blessings of God, which are freely available to us because of what Jesus did on the cross for us.
- B. Romans 6:1-10: Our ***legal position*** speaks of how God sees us and relates to us in Christ and the benefits that we freely and fully received at our new birth because of what Jesus did on the cross.
- C. Romans 6:11-14: We ***cooperate with grace*** by fully embracing three primary principles—they are to *know truth* (v. 11), *resist darkness* (v. 12-13a), and *pursue loving God and people* (v. 13b). Paul urged us not to receive grace in vain by neglecting to lay hold of it (2 Cor. 6:1).
- D. Romans 6:15-23: Our ***living condition*** speaks of how we live in our daily life—how much grace we experience in our mind and emotions as they are renewed by interacting with the Spirit.

II. WE ARE NOT UNDER LAW BUT UNDER GRACE (ROM. 6:11-14)

- A. Paul assures that any who engage in the three principles set forth in verses 11-13 will experience victory over sin—sin shall not have dominion over their mind and emotions (v. 14a). We will have victory in a substantial way in this age and in an absolute way in the age to come.
¹¹...reckon [see] yourselves to...be alive to God in Christ...¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body...¹³and do not present your members...to sin, but present yourselves to God...¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
(Rom. 6:11-14)
- B. The three principles are—***know*** who we are in Christ (v. 11), ***resist*** darkness (v. 12-13a), and ***pursue*** loving God and people (v. 13b). There is no substitute for any of these principles.
- C. Paul used “for” twice in verse 14. In the first “for” Paul promised victory to all (v. 12). In the second “for” he gives *the basis* for this victory—because we are not under law, but under grace; in other words, because of our new acceptance, position, power, and destiny in Christ (v. 1-11).
- D. **We are not under law**: We are no longer under the condemnation or powerlessness of the law. To be under the law means to attempt to earn salvation by our deeds and to seek to live godly by the power of our flesh. Being under law means relating to God based on how well we are doing.
- E. **We are under grace**: To be under grace includes being enjoyed by God and empowered by the indwelling Spirit. We relate to God on the basis of what Jesus accomplished for us in His death and resurrection; it includes being under Jesus’ generous and merciful leadership. Any who are under the law in their relationship with God do not have the indwelling Spirit; therefore, they are powerless before the dominion of sin. They live disconnected from God in their heart. Many believers continue to live as if under the law by living disconnected from God on the inside.

- F. Being under grace has many implications such as God enjoying His relationship. It includes the gracious way in which He evaluates our life, defines our success, and measures our fruitfulness. He defines our ***primary success in life*** as being ones who are loved by God and who love God. Our identity must be established on being loved by God and in loving Him in response. Our confession is: *“I am loved by God and I love God, therefore I am successful.”* When we work *for* success we get burned out. When we work *from* success we are strengthened.
1. We must cultivate a “grace paradigm” of our life. God sees our lives through the lens of grace; therefore, He sees it very differently from how we see it.
 2. We receive eternal rewards for all that we do in the will of God because Jesus evaluates our lives so graciously and gives to us so generously. Because of His grace, He even rewards our small deeds, like giving a cup of water in His name (Mt. 10:42).
 3. Jesus sees the genuineness of our weak love and desire to obey Him. He rejoices in our glorious future and destiny. He so values our small deeds and efforts. We are crowned with glory and honor (Heb. 2:7). We are successful in His eyes (all who love and obey Jesus are already successful before God). We are ambassadors of the kingdom and will reign with Jesus over the earth forever.
- G. Paul addressed the common misinterpretation of the grace message (v. 15).
- ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.***
¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!
(Rom. 6:14-15)
1. Grace empowers us to walk in a lifestyle of righteousness and wholehearted obedience. As we see that we have freely received so much, we are overwhelmed with gratitude and come to understand our new position in Christ. It is unthinkable that any who see their position as sons of God and the Bride of Christ would continue in willful sin.
 2. Jesus redeemed us so that we would walk free from all sinful deeds (Titus 2:14).
¹⁴...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)
 3. Jesus loves righteousness and is the most righteous man who ever lived. Being under His generous and merciful leadership energizes His people to wholehearted, obedient love.
 4. Some misinterpret Paul’s declaration that we are not under the law. He was not saying that it does not matter how we live. Being free from the law does not invalidate the moral standards in the kingdom, because that would contradict the Sermon on the Mount.
 5. Being free from the law is not a license for lawlessness. Being under grace frees from the penalty of sin without giving freedom to sin. Grace does not condone sin; it enables us to overcome sin.

III. PRINCIPLE #1: KNOWING THE TRUTH (FAITH)

- A. **Knowing Principle (Rom. 6:11)**: We must know who we are in Christ. To “reckon ourselves” alive to God is to see ourselves in the way that God sees us and to see what is true about our spirit because of being in Christ. Paul gives us details of our legal position (Rom 6:1-10).
¹¹Reckon [see] yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ... (Rom. 6:11)
- B. **Reckon yourself dead to sin**: We are to see ourselves as dead to the reign of sin and free from the resulting condemnation and powerlessness to challenge sinful promptings in our emotions.
- C. **Reckon yourself alive to God**: We must see ourselves in the way that God sees us in Christ—as enjoyed, indwelt, empowered, and commissioned. To be alive to God is to live in the realm of God and of grace. When condemnation, shame, or lust, etc., rise up in us to challenge what God promised us, then we apply the promise of the Word by confessing the truth (Rom.10:8-10).

IV. PRINCIPLE #2: RESISTING DARKNESS (SELF-DENIAL IN CHOOSING GODLINESS)

- A. **Resisting Principle (Rom. 6:12-13a)**: We resist sin, Satan, and sin-provoking circumstances. We can refuse to let sin reign in us by engaging in the three principles set forth in verse 11-13.
¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin... (Rom. 6:12-13a)
- B. **Therefore**: Paul wrote “therefore” pointing back to the truths of verses 1-11.
- C. **Our members**: This speaks of our physical and mental capacities—our time, desires, speech, mind, emotions, or money. They can be used for good or evil.
- D. One way in which we are to express our love for Jesus is by making decisions to resist lust. Denying our lustful desires is the theater God chose for us to express our love to Him. Obedience is not earning God’s love; it is the way we express our love to God.
¹⁵“If you love Me, keep My commandments...” (Jn. 14:15)
- E. **Do not let sin reign in your body**: Not allowing sin to reign in us requires that we resist lust with self-denial and grace-empowered discipline. Grace motivates and empowers us to say no to sin.
¹¹The grace of God...has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. (Titus 2:11-12)
1. Jesus emphasized the need for self-denial (Mt. 16:24). The need for self-denial has been rejected or greatly minimized by many who promote the distorted grace message.
²⁴“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself...” (Mt. 16:24)
 2. Paul needed to discipline his body by bringing it into subjection to Jesus (1 Cor. 9:27).
²⁷I discipline my body and bring it into subjection lest...I should become disqualified. (1 Cor. 9:27)

- F. **Do not present your members to sin:** People present themselves to sin in two stages—first in their mind, then with their body. We must refuse circumstances that inflame sinful desires. We do not go to places, buy items, look at, touch, or talk about that which stirs up sinful desires.
1. **Presenting ourselves to sin mentally:** Presenting our members to sin starts in our mind by rehearsing different situations—by daydreaming. Jesus taught how immorality operates. It is rooted first in the mind, being fueled by sight. The progression of adultery begins with the mind and eyes, and moves to circumstances leading to physical adultery.
²⁸“**Whoever looks at a woman to lust...has already committed adultery...in his heart.**” (Mt. 5:28)
 2. **Presenting ourselves to sin physically:** We must refuse circumstances that inflame sinful desires. We do not go to places, buy items, look at, touch, or talk about that which stirs up sinful desires. There are many ways to present oneself to sin.

V. PRINCIPLE #3: PURSUING GOD AND PEOPLE (LOVE)

- A. **Pursuing Principle (Rom. 6:13b):** We pursue relating to and serving God and people with love. We present ourselves to God and our bodies as His instruments that He may use to bless others. In other words, we are to pursue loving God and people (Mt. 22:37-40).
¹³**But present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members** [your body, time, money, abilities, etc.] **as instruments of righteousness to God.** (Rom. 6:13b)
- B. **Present yourselves to God:** This speaks of seeking to know, love, and please God in a personal and wholehearted way. We take time to cultivate intimacy with God. We present ourselves “as being alive from the dead, or alive to God,” with confidence in how God sees us in Christ and based on what Jesus did for us, not based on our spiritual attainments, good or bad. Presenting ourselves with sincerity is not enough; we must have confidence in Jesus’ work on the cross.
- C. **Present your members as instruments of righteousness:** We express love to people by offering ourselves to serve and bless others in God’s will. This includes making the effort to be equipped to minister to others and to build quality relationships that glorify God.
- D. We must **know truth, resist darkness, and pursue God and people.** We pursue loving God and people as we resist sin, Satan, and sin-provoking circumstances in the context of knowing who we are in Christ. None of these principles can be omitted. Some people resist sin and pursue God without knowing who they are in Christ. Some pursue God at prayer meetings without pursuing people or resisting sin. Others pursue people (relationship or ministry) without pursuing God.

VI. QUESTIONS FOR SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (e.g., FCF FRIENDSHIP GROUPS)

1. Which point in this session would you like more understanding of?
2. Which point most inspired or challenged you? Why? What will you do differently to apply it?
3. Which point do you want to impart to a younger believer? Why? How will you elaborate on it?
4. What is one point in this session that needs to be emphasized to the larger Body of Christ? Why?