

Evening Sermon December 11, 2022

A Resurrected Response to Abounding Grace

Romans 5:20 / Romans 6:1-13

Because of Romans 5:20, which states ... “where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” (Romans 5:20 NKJV)

Paul expected that some might consider this question: “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?” Romans 6:1

He was right to expect this, consider the bumper sticker, which I have told you before-

Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins, I better get my money's worth!

People have been distorting God's great grace into a license to sin for a long time!

“Rasputin taught that salvation came through repeated experiences of sin and repentance. He argued that because those who sin more require more forgiveness, those who sin with abandon will as they repent experience greater joy; therefore, it is the believer's duty to sin.” R.K. Hughes

“I would say that one of the greatest problems in evangelical Christianity today is the pervasive influence of what we call ‘Antinomianism’. Antinomianism says, ‘I am saved by faith, therefore I never have to be concerned in the slightest about obeying the law.’ Antinomianism says that the commandments of God have no binding influence on my conscience. That is not just a distortion of Christianity, it is a fundamental denial of Christianity. Yet this notion is commonplace in Christian circles.” R.C. Sproul

Paul answers this question, “**Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?” Romans 6:1**

² Certainly not! Romans 6:2 (NKJV) ² By no means! Romans 6:2 (ESV)

May it never be! Romans 6:2 (NASB) ² God forbid. Romans 6:2 (KJV 1900)

Whatever version we might consider, Paul gives an emphatic negative response to any sinning that grace may abound!

Why such a negative response to continued sin?

1. Our baptism identifies us with and ties us to Jesus Christ, both to His death and His resurrection –

How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:2b-4 NKJV)

- 1. Baptism is a covenant sign which symbolizes our solidarity, identification, and unity with Christ, which should be stronger than our connection to sin.*

In this sense, water baptism is a long like a wedding ring. Now, currently I am single. However, if I am on an airplane, and the beautiful woman sitting next to me, flirts with me and while she is doing this, I notice a wedding band and a diamond engagement ring on her left hand! I have to say, "NO! NO! NO!"

That ring means YOU belong to someone! That ring means you are wrong to show interest in me, and I would be wrong, even dead wrong, to return that interest to you!

Baptism means we belong to Christ! We belong to Him because He died for us...

- 2. Jesus died for us; He counted us dead with Him! He took our judgment; He paid our penalty.*

Remember Psalm 69 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. 2 I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. (Psalm 69:1-2 NKJ)

SINKING, was where we were when He found us!

3. He resurrected, and we resurrected with Him. Not yet in the physical sense, but spiritually already. He, by His resurrection, has spiritually, morally and powerfully brought us up out of that deep, miry place. NKJ Psalm 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. 2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. 3 He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD. (Psalm 40:1-3 NKJ)

4. Note in Romans 6:4; two important, connected facts:

A. How Christ was raised? "By the glory of the Father" Do we think of "glory" in this way, as operative, having power to do things? Even great things? Typically, human glory is connected to relatively useless beauty, yes, we admire it, but it is not usually useful. God's glory is beautiful, useful and powerful!

B. How we should walk? "In newness of life" The same glory which resurrected Christ enables us to walk!

Resurrection LIFE is NOT otiose, lazy, lacking energy, activity or power! Rather, it is full of life, glory and fearless fight against sin!

II. Unity with Christ in His crucifixion and His death means unity with Christ in His resurrection and Life

- 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 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. (Romans 6:5-11 NKJ)

:5 United with Him in death / means unity with Him in His life

:6 Our old man / Adam (and our solidarity with Adam) was crucified, the body of sin done away with for this purpose – That we should no longer be slaves of sin!

:7-9 (1) Death means freedom from sin (2) Dying with Christ means also living with Christ (3) Christ raised and therefore forever is free from death's reign – John Bunyan said "Death is a king, rampant and stout." Yet, Christ knocked him silly, dethroned him forever. John Bunyan said "sin is the living worm, the lasting fire" Yet, Christ's resurrection lifts us up above the place of fire and worms, to Heaven, so even now it should raise us ABOVE SIN!

:10-11 We need to reckon ourselves: 1. Dead to sin 2. Alive to God through Christ Jesus, our Lord III. III.

Applications:

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (Romans 6:12-13 NKJ)

1. Don't let sin reign, we have no reason to: This is a potential trouble area for Reformed Believers, belief in total depravity, and a continued struggle with sin are correct beliefs, but Satan can trick us into dwelling on them, or using them as EXCUSE to let sin reign. As powerful as sin often is the power we have available to us from God is greater. Paul will elaborate on this in chapters 7 & 8!

2. Don't present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin:

A. The righteous will be tempted to this, consider Joseph—Genesis 39:7-23 / David—2 Samuel 11 / Even Jesus—Matthew 4:1-11

B. Our world (and Satan Job 1 & 2) is constantly presenting such temptations...

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

C. Yet God controls our temptations –

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*. 1 Corinthians 10:12–13 (NKJV)

3. Present yourselves to God

A. As being alive from the dead, ready, eager to serve, excited about doing God's will, walking in His ways, by His resurrection POWER!

B. As using your mind, body, arms, legs, tongue, “your members” as instruments of righteousness to God!

1 Corinthians 10:31 / Galatians 6:9

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

*C. Remember, temptations are not only to sins of commission, but they also tempt us to sins of omission- ⁹ **And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)***

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