



## Group Discussion Guide

### Romans 6:1-14

*For groups meeting March 15 evening through March 22 morning.*

“Grace, grace, God’s grace ... grace that is greater than all our sin.” As we sang these words from a familiar hymn last Sunday, they echoed what Paul shared in the second half of Romans 5. His next step ensured that his readers would correctly understand and apply this truth in their lives. In Romans 6, Paul focused on how those who believe are affected by God’s grace in their daily lives. He began with a rhetorical question, “Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?” (v. 1). This question likely stemmed from the misinterpretation that because God’s grace overcomes sin, perhaps committing sin brings more attention to God’s grace. In answering this question, Paul offered an emphatic negative response and then explained that those who trust in Christ are dead to sin (v. 2). Paul used baptism as an illustration of being buried with Jesus and raised to a new life (vs. 3-4).

The apostle continued to develop this line of thinking in the next few verses. Dying to the old self and being raised to a new life in Christ means that those who believe are no longer slaves to sinful behavior, but instead are set free from it (vs. 5-8). Paul then wrote that Jesus experienced death only once, and his resurrection proved that he has conquered death and his new life glorifies God (vs. 9-10). In the same way, believers are to live in light of the truth that we are dead to sin, and our life belongs to God through faith in Jesus.

Paul indicated that because of this freedom from sin, believers have a choice when it comes to sin, and he instructed those who follow Jesus to not allow sin to have a stronghold in their lives (v. 12). He offered a contrast: one can make himself available to sin or to God (v. 13). When a believer makes himself available to sin, the body becomes an instrument of unrighteousness. When made available to God, the body becomes an instrument of righteousness. Paul’s final statement in this section is direct: believers are under grace and not law, and therefore sin has “no dominion” over us.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul chose to ask the question, “Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?” What would lead to a mindset that committing sin would bring more grace and perhaps even more glory to God?
2. Paul uses baptism as an illustration of death and resurrection. Have you considered this meaning of baptism before? How does this affect your understanding of this symbolic act of faith?
3. We who believe are “raised from the dead” and we “walk in newness of life” (v. 4). What is something “new” in your life since you placed your faith in Jesus ... something that God has done in your heart?
4. Paul writes that “our old self was crucified with [Jesus]” (v. 6). What is something in your life that was crucified when you came to faith in Christ?
5. Those of us who follow Jesus are instructed to “consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (v. 11). What is the importance of the word “consider” in that statement? How can we actively do this in our daily lives?
6. What does it mean to “present your members to sin” versus “present yourselves to God” (v. 13)? What is the result of each choice? How can this serve as a reminder for us when we are faced with temptation?