

Grace in Sanctification

Introduction and Review

- ❑ **Grace in Redemption.** All people are born spiritually dead & are condemned at birth into the human race (Eph. 2:1-3).
- ❑ God gives spiritual life to spiritually dead sinners because of His abundant mercy, great love & amazing grace (v. 4-5).
- ❑ Believers experience the resurrection life of Christ & the heavenly rule of Christ now in this life (v. 6-7).
- ❑ Grace completely humbles any human effort in the salvation of any sinner (v. 8b-9).
- ❑ Grace completely glorifies God in the salvation of every sinner (v. 8a, 10).

I. Grace and Sin Conflict (5:21)

A. Sin reigns in spiritual death

Sin dominates or rules over the person that is spiritually dead with slavish control. Sin and spiritual death both have a dominate power over the unbeliever – the sinner cannot break free with human effort to love God & live holy.

B. Grace reigns in spiritual life

The grace of God through the Spirit of God sets the believer free & keeps the believer free. Grace continues to dominate & rule so that the believer cannot return to a life of spiritual death (Jn. 8:36).

II. Grace and Sin Contradict (6:1-4)

A. Continue in sin (v. 1-2a)

Does the teaching on grace encourage believers to continue sinning aggressively? When believers know that God will forgive any amount of sin, are they encouraged to sin more? Absolutely not! By no means! May it never be! God forbid!

B. Continue in the newness of life (v. 2b-4)

Believers have a totally different quality of inward nature & character than unbelievers – “died to sin”. The believer is in fact a new creation, living in a new environment & living a new quality of life (2Co. 5:17; Col. 1:13; v. 4). This is true because of our union with or being spiritually joined to Christ (v. 3).

III. Grace Gives Power Over Sin (5:20)

A. The law is powerless

*The law was never intended to prevent sin – telling a sinner not to lie, steal or murder does not help prevent the sin from occurring. The law was too weak (powerless) to overcome human for sinning (Rom. 8:3). The law was intended to reveal sin [*increase awareness & knowledge*] & condemn the sinner (Rom. 7:7-10). *The law helps a person see that they cannot stop sinning on their own!**

B. Grace is powerful

The grace of God in Christ Jesus is the only means powerful enough to forgive the worst of sinners & keep the believer from wanting to go back. Grace controls a believer’s inward godly desires & gives power to obey God (Phil. 2:13). The grace of God in Jesus Christ is so powerful because it gives us all HOPE that God can forgive any sin, help us live a holy life & use us in His holy ministry!

APPL: Believers do not have to yield to the temptation of sin.

Believers have the power of the Holy Spirit through grace to walk away from sin, say no, not to participate, etc. Believers have been given the liberty to obey God out of love for Him & to disobey sin out of love for Christ (Jn. 14:15). Believers love righteousness, holiness, living in the light, being ambassadors for Christ...

CONCLUSION

Therefore my beloved brother & sister there is real, genuine hope for you today regardless of your past sins. There's real hope regardless of the number of times that you have tried to change & failed.

There's real hope regardless of your bad habits; regardless of your age, health, education, financial situation, marital status, etc. God has said that it is His will for you to live holy; it is His will for you to live the sanctified life (1Pe. 1:16; 1Th. 4:3). So God gives you abundant power through His abundant grace to live the abundant life of sanctification!

And if you are a sinner here today who has been trying to live a holy life by making commitment, vows, going to church, giving money, etc. then you must admit that your plan is not working. The only way to live holy is to first of all be holy & you cannot be holy without faith in Jesus Christ. But you must believe...

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