

Let Not Sin Reign
Romans 6:12-14
May 28, 2020

Review

Theme of Romans: The gospel of God (1:16-17)

1:18-3:20 The universality of sin and condemnation (the universal need for the gospel)

3:21-4:25 The gospel (good news) as the righteousness of God by faith

Chs 5-8 The gospel and _____

5:1-11 Blessed results of justification

5:12-21 God's grace toward us in the second Adam is greater than our sin in the first Adam, and reigns through the second Adam's righteousness

Ch 6 The triumph of grace over the power of sin

The main ideas in 6:1-11

1. Though God's grace abounds to us through Christ, we are not to continue in sin (1-2)
2. As pictured in believer's baptism, we have been united with Christ, including union with Christ in His death (3)
3. We have died with Christ to sin, making it utterly incongruous to continue living in sin (2)
4. We were buried with Christ in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too would walk in newness of life (4)
5. Our old self was crucified with Christ, with the purpose and result of no longer being enslaved to sin (5-7)
6. We are united with Christ in His resurrection (8-10)
7. We must count ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ (11)

Command: Do not let sin reign in your body (12)

“therefore”

- In view of the believer's position in Christ as taught in verses 2-10 and summarized in verse 11

Question: In spite of our new position in Christ, we as Christians still sin. Why is this?

“in your mortal body”

1. Spoken of earlier as “the body of sin” (6)
2. Views our mortal body as sin’s instrument
3. Contrasts with our future glorified body
 - **Phil. 3:20–21** “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

“its passions”

1. NASB “its lusts”
2. CSB “its desires”
3. Sinful desires
4. As long as we are in this mortal body, we will experience sinful desires within us
5. Spoken of as “the desires of the flesh” in **Gal. 5:16–17** “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”

“to make you obey its passions”

We obey them when we...

- Entertain them
- Make provision for them (13:14)
- Follow them
- Gratify them (13:14; Gal 5:16)

“Let not sin therefore reign”

1. Sin once reigned in us (5:21a; cf. 3:9b)
2. Though the power of sin over us has been broken, sin still strives for mastery over the believer’s body and will continue to strive for mastery as long as we are in this mortal body
3. A command to resist sin and the passions of the flesh
4. A command that we can obey because of our union with Christ

Command: Present yourself to God as one who has been brought from death to life (13)

“Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness”

1. The members of your body (cf. 12 “your mortal body”)
2. “instruments” is also translated “weapons” (CSB)
3. Do not present the parts of your body to sin as weapons to be used by the enemy

“but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”

1. Present the parts of your body to God as weapons for His righteous purposes
2. Rather than presenting the parts of your body to sin for sin’s use, present yourself to the God who has saved you, for His use

Our spiritual worship (Rom 12:1)

Question: How can we be intentional about putting verse 13 into practice?

Promise: Sin will have no dominion over you (14)

“For sin will have no dominion over you”

1. Literally, “not be master over you” (NASB)
 - From the same root as “lord”
2. You have a new lord
3. A promise that is valid for every believer at the present time
4. Must be held in tension with verse 12
5. A statement that speaks of freedom from the power of sin (cf. 6:9)

“since you are not under law but under grace”

1. Takes us back to the ideas of 5:20-21
2. In Adam, we were under the reign of the law, which condemned us
3. In Christ, we are under the reign of grace, which has liberated us from both the penalty and power of sin
4. Grace does not give license to sin (1-2), but liberates from sin

This promise gives hope that we can truly follow the previous commands