

“Shall We Continue In Sin?”

Romans 6:1-23

Shall we continue in sin?

I. NO! WE DIED TO SIN! (verse 2)

WE WERE CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM (verses 3-4)

Having been crucified with Christ should impact how we live – **Galatians 2:20**

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.”

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WE CAN NOW WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE (verses 4-5)

We are now a new creation in Christ – **2 Corinthians 5:17** – *“Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.”*

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WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES OF SIN (verses 6-7)

Putting off the old man – **Ephesians 4:22**

“that ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit”

Also consider **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Colossians 3:9, *“lie not one to another; seeing that ye have put off the old man with his doings.”*

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WE CAN NOW LIVE WITH CHRIST (verses 8-10)

- Christ now lives with God in newness of life
- Because we died with Christ, so can we!

Ephesians 2:4-6, *“but God, being rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace have ye been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus”*

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II. NO! WE ARE ALIVE TO GOD! (verse 11) SIN DOES NOT HAVE TO REIGN IN US (verse 12)

We who were dead in sin can now choose not to let it reign in us!

We are no longer debtors to sin –

Romans 8:12-13

“So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh: for if ye live after the flesh, ye must die; but if by the Spirit ye put to death the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

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OUR BODIES CAN NOW BE INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (verse 13)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? And ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body."

1 Peter 4:2, "that ye no longer should live the rest of your time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."

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GOD'S GRACE FREES US FROM SIN'S DOMINION (verse 14)

- Sin no longer needs to be our master
- In Christ, we have been set free!
- **Romans 8:1-2**, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death."

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III. NO! WE ARE TO BE SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS! (verse 19)

WE ARE SLAVES TO WHATEVER WE OBEY (verses 15-16)

John 8:34, "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, every one that committeth sin is the bondservant of sin."

For Christians to continue in sin makes things worse.

2 Peter 2:20-22, "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first ..."

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WE BECAME SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (verses 17-18)

But when we obeyed from the heart the doctrine (i.e., the gospel which commands baptism), we were set free from sin

Acts 2:38; 22:16

Not just sin's condemnation – **Romans 8:1-2**

But also sin's dominion – cf. **Romans 8:12-13**

Barnes – We are debtors – We owe it as a matter of solemn obligation

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WE ARE TO SERVE RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE WE ONCE SERVED SIN (verse 19)

- We previously offered our bodies as slaves of sin
- So now we offer our bodies as slaves of righteousness for the purpose of producing holiness – **1 Peter 1:14-16**

"as children of obedience, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in the time of your ignorance: but like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy."

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IV. NO! THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH! (verse 23)

THE FRUIT OF SLAVERY TO SIN IS DEATH (verses 20-21)

The end of those enslaved to sin is "death"

Romans 7:5 – "For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were through the law, wrought in our members to bring forth fruit unto death."

Romans 8:8-9 – "and they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

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Living in sin separates us from God –

Isaiah 59:1-2, "Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear."

Dying in sin will separate us from God for eternity –

cf. **Revelation 21:8**

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THE GRACE OF GOD OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE (22-23)

We are no longer in bondage to sin. We have been delivered from the dominion of sin.

cf. **Titus 3:4-7**

By His grace we can now be slaves to God, through continued obedience! – **Romans 6:15-19**

By His grace we can bear the fruit of holiness, which in turn leads to eternal life! – **Romans 6:22**;
cf. **Romans 2:4-11**

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CONCLUSION

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Romans 6:2,15 - "Certainly not!" (NKJV)

Adam Clark puts it this way - **God forbid** – "Let it not be; by no means; far from it; let not such a thing be mentioned!"

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary – "Let the thought be abhorred, of continuing in sin that grace may abound. True believers are dead to sin, therefore they ought not to follow it. No man can at the same time be both dead and alive. He is a fool who, desiring to be dead unto sin, thinks he may live in it."