

GRATITUDE AND REPENTANCE

The Lord's Prayer, Summer 2023: Romans 6:11-14

June 18, 2023

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.
Romans 6:11-14

The power of grace

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 6

1. After explaining the gospel of guilt and grace, Paul asks the right question
2. The answer begins with the meaning of baptism
3. The believer has a new commander, and the body is the battleground
4. In Romans, grace ends the justification section and begins the sanctification section

Heidelberg Catechism, Part III: Gratitude

Lord's Day 32

Q 86. Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?

A. Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits,¹ so that he may be praised through us,² so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits,³ and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.⁴

¹ Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5-10 ² Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

³ Matt. 7:17-18; Gal. 5:22-24; 2 Pet. 1:10-11 ⁴ Matt. 5:14-16; Rom. 14:17-19; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1-2

Q 87. Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and unrepentant ways?

A. By no means. Scripture tells us that no unchaste person, no idolater, adulterer, thief, no covetous person, no drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like will inherit the kingdom of God.¹

¹ 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:1-20; 1 John 3:14

Lord's Day 33

Q 88. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

A. Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.¹

¹ Rom. 6:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-10

Q 89. What is the dying-away of the old self?

A. To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it.¹

¹ Ps. 51:3-4, 17; Joel 2:12-13; Rom. 8:12-13; 2 Cor. 7:10

Q 90. What is the rising-to-life of the new self?

A. Wholehearted joy in God through Christ¹ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work.²

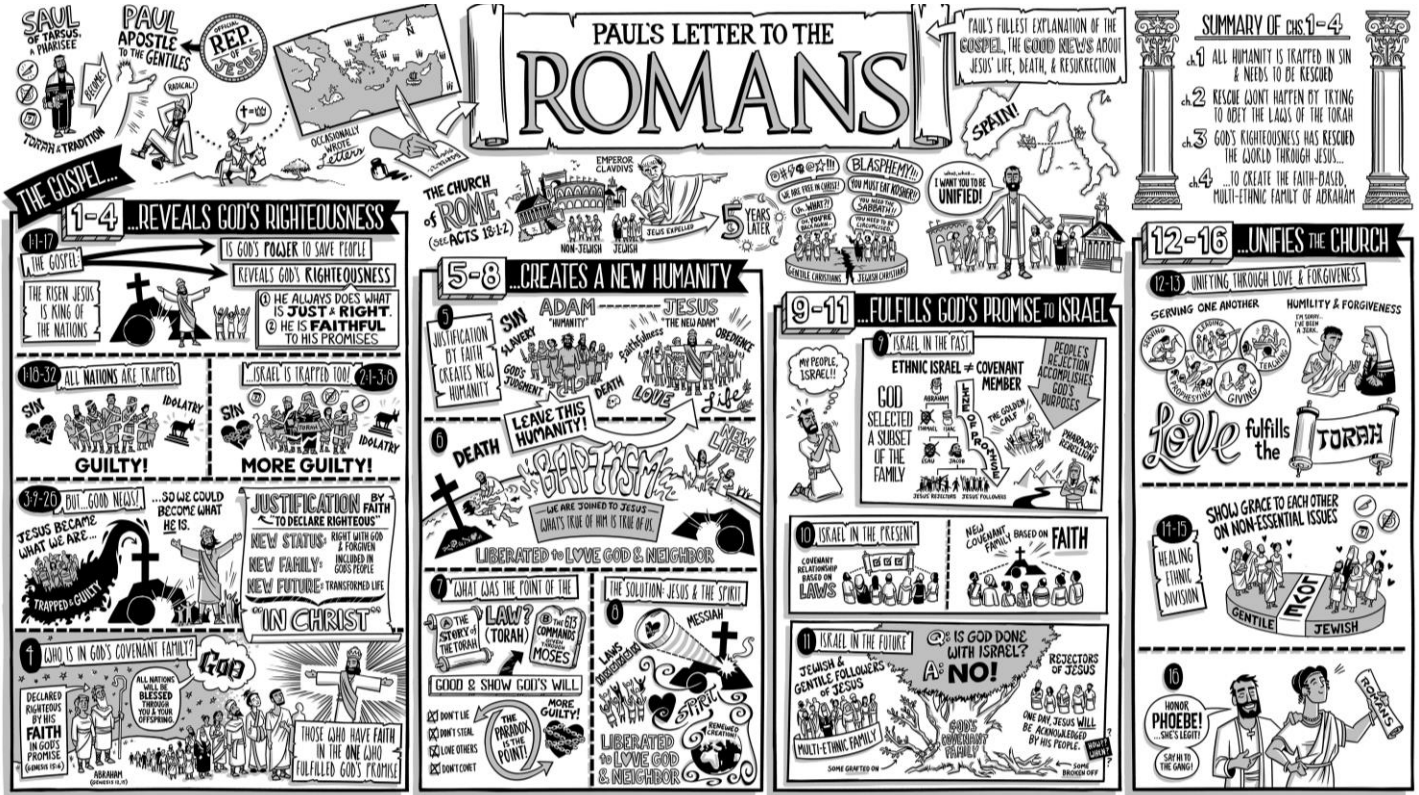
¹ Ps. 51:8, 12; Isa. 57:15; Rom. 5:1; 14:17 ² Rom. 6:10-11; Gal. 2:20

Q 91. What are good works?

A. Only those which are done out of true faith,¹ conform to God's law,² and are done for God's glory;³ and not those based on our own opinion or human tradition.⁴

¹ John 15:5; Heb. 11:6 ² Lev. 18:4; 1 Sam. 15:22; Eph. 2:10 ³ 1 Cor. 10:31

⁴ Deut. 12:32; Isa. 29:13; Ezek. 20:18-19; Matt. 15:7-9



Two important questions

1. In the same way as what?

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Romans 6

1. It's a "who?" question, and the answer is Jesus!

2. Union with Christ (and the indwelling Spirit!) makes freedom from sin possible – only then should we worry about sanctification is necessary

2. What does this have to do with the Lord's Prayer?

Q 116. Why do Christians need to pray?

A. Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us.

Lord's Day 47

How grace works

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

²⁰ You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2

First, you will see that the gospel of the grace of God promotes real holiness in men by remembering that THE SALVATION WHICH IT BRINGS IS SALVATION FROM THE POWER OF SIN.

Charles Spurgeon

Justification was not intended as a license to sin, but as liberation from sin. It is God's provision not only to be declared righteous but to live righteously.

Bob Deffinbaugh

so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits

so that he may be praised through us

so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits

and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.

Resources for further study

The poster for Romans can be found at bibleproject.com

Bob Deffinbaugh has a good series on Romans. His sermon on 6:1-14 which does a good job of summarizing the argument of Romans is at <https://bible.org/seriespage/10-end-reign-death-romans-61-14>

John Piper has several sermon on this text at <https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/romans/1/messages>, but I especially like this analysis of the text found at <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/do-not-let-sin-reign-in-your-mortal-body-part-2>

1. Verse 12: There is a *throne* or a *reign*. "Do not let sin *reign* in your mortal body."
2. Verse 12: There is a *challenger to the throne*: sin. "Do not let *sin* reign in your mortal body."
3. Verse 12: There is a *castle* where sin threatens to reign: the human body. "Do not let sin reign in *your mortal body*."
4. Verse 12: There are loyal *servants* in the castle who may go over to the other side and join the conspiracy as enemy agents inside the walls of the castle: desires. "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its (that is, the body's) *desires*."
5. Verse 12: There is *incremental surrender* possible in this conflict: obedience to disloyal desires. "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you *obey* its desires."
6. Verse 13: There is a *true king* on the throne who has the reign in the castle: God. "Do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments [weapons] of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to *God* as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments [weapons] of righteousness to God."
7. Verse 13: There are *weapons* in the castle that can be used to advance the cause of the true king, God, or the cause of the pretender to the throne, sin: members [parts] of the human body. "Do not go on presenting the *members of your body* to sin as instruments [o[pla, weapons] of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments [o[pla, weapons] of righteousness to God."
8. Verse 14: There is a *constitutional authority* in the kingdom: grace, not law. "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under *grace*."

Spurgeon has an important sermon on this text at <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols25-27/chs1482.pdf>

Kim Riddlebarger has a good series on Romans at <http://kimriddlebarger.squarespace.com/sermons-on-pauls-epistle-to-th/>