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The Common Misunderstanding of Grace

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Romans 3:8 Why not say, as some slanderously claim that we say, "Let us do evil that good may result"?...

Romans 6:1-11 ¹What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may increase? ²Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer? ³Or aren't you aware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴We 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 walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. ⁷For anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹So you too must count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (BSB)

I. What are the details of this passage?

- A.** Paul was often misunderstood when he talked about **grace**. The Jews accused him of giving people a license to sin. Romans 3:8 and 6:1
- B.** Grace does not give us a license to sin because our salvation implies that we have **swapped** our sinfulness for Christ's righteousness. V.2
- C.** Paul uses our **baptism** into Christ to illustrate this swap. V. 3
- D.** When we receive the grace of God we receive what Paul calls "a **newness** of life". Living this out is what Paul calls "walking in newness of life." V.4
- E.** We crucify our old self when we receive the **crucifixion** of Christ. We receive this newness of life when we receive his **resurrection**. V.5-6
- F.** Since, we have been crucified with Christ we **forfeit** the right to choose to sin against God. V. 7-8
- G.** Sin loses its dominion over us when we completely **immerse** ourselves in the grace of Christ. 9-11
- H.** We walk in this grace when we **refuse** to let our sinful human nature determine our actions. Instead we merely obey the Holy Spirit of God living in us.

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A. Expect that some will ***misunderstand*** who you are and what you are about.
- B. We must be ***assured*** that we are saved because of what Christ did for us.
- C. We must realize that we are in a ***war*** with our old nature. We must feed and care for our new nature and not our old one.
- D. We must practice ***listening*** and ***obeying*** the Spirit of God.
- E. When old ***memories*** come up we must remind our old nature that that person is no longer alive.