



April 7, 2024

Romans: Rooted in Jesus United With Him

Romans 6:1-12

Questions and Discussion:

1. Paul opens with a question, "What shall we say then?" In other words, "How are we to think and talk about the gospel?" What have you heard within the church on the subject of sin and grace?
2. Paul's opening interchange with his audience plays off his previous teaching that when the law came, sin increased. As sin increased, grace increased. Not that grace actually increased, but our perspective of grace increased. His audience might conclude that He is teaching a form of indulgence for the sake of experiencing more grace. Maybe he's saying that God's grace is big enough to handle your sin, so sin freely. Interact with his question, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?"
3. Paul talks about sin and death as having dominion, like the reign of an evil emperor to whom we must submit. At the same time, he speaks of new life as freedom from that emperor (vv6,7) and lives lived unto God. How do you think about the freedom Christ has granted you? Is it freedom from one to serve another?
4. Discuss or reflect on the power of sin in your life. To help get you thinking, read Paul's list of sins in Colossians 3:5-9, and pick one that seems to have power in your life. Describe that power and influence.
5. Discuss or reflect on the power of death in your life. Death has several strengths. First, it creates fear. Fear is power! Second, it threatens and creates loss. Loss can be a powerful influence. Third, it shapes our value of time, especially as we age. How do these influences of death affect you? How does it affect your use of time, money, etc.? How does it shape your view of time and purpose of life?
6. Paul says that Jesus died to sin. At the same time, we know that sin and death did not reign over him as it does us because he was without sin. Murray says, "Christ was identified in such a way with the sin which he vicariously bore that he dealt not only with its guilt but also with its power." In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul says that Jesus "became sin." How can Jesus become and die to sin, without being sinful? Focus on the word "identified." For an illustration, think of the sacrificial lamb in the OT.
7. Have you considered Paul's use of the word baptism in connection with the Spirit in Romans 5:5? Paul is not referring to physical baptism in Romans 6. That would create a sacramentalism that says the right of baptism conveys the blessing of baptism. Notice the connection between *baptism* (v.3) and *unite* (v.5). How is Paul using the word baptism?
8. What else did you learn today? How is the Holy Spirit urging you to respond?