

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 6:1-5**

### **September 10, 2017**

Romans 6 contains some very important truths for the Christian life. Up to this point, Paul has been expounding the gospel of the free grace of Christ. This made him susceptible to the charge that the grace he preached would actually encourage sin. Romans 6 is Paul's response to that faulty charge and contains foundational truths for sanctification.

1. At the end of Romans 5, Paul said that where sin abounds, grace abounds much more. So, in Romans 6:1, he is anticipating the charge that grace actually gives a license to sin more. This is the theological error of antinomianism (meaning, "against the law") which says the Christian is not obligated to obey God's commands after salvation.

—Very few people would actually call themselves antinomian. Most people realize that the Bible calls for obedience in the Christian life. But, we are all prone to hypocrisy and minimizing our sin. Discuss the subtle ways we may actually be functional antinomians.

—Read Titus 2:11-14. Clearly, we are saved by grace and then empowered by grace to live in obedience to God. Discuss the concept of grace. Do we at times instinctively think of it only as past tense (forgiving past sins)? If so, how could this truncated view of grace hinder our sanctification?

2. In Romans 6:2-5, Paul grounds the basis of a Christian's relationship with sin and obedience in Christ's death and resurrection. He says we were united with Christ when we were baptized into him. For Paul, baptism is a shorthand way of noting when a person becomes a Christian. So, since Christ has died to sin, so has the Christian. Likewise, since Christ was raised to the newness of life, so the Christian will be raised.

—Discuss what Paul means by our union with Christ. What are the implications of this truth? (Read Ephesians 1:3-10, Colossians 3:1-4, and Romans 8:9-10)

—The New Testament contains numerous passages that speak of us being "in Christ" and Christ being "in us." Consider the implications of this truth. How is it much more significant than merely "asking Jesus into your heart"? How does this union with Christ inform the Christian life?