

Sunday, April 29, 2007

Living Under Grace

Romans 6.1-14

In our contemporary society a lot of what passes for Christianity is not Christianity at all. Christianity has often been misunderstood. In our text, Paul is addressing one of the misconceptions concerning Christianity. In doing so, he points out the essence of true Christianity and the importance of understanding the truths that transform us.

There are three principle truths he wishes to communicate.

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

*“What shall we say, then? **Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!** We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”*
Romans 6.1-3

One of the common misconceptions concerning Christianity actually comes from the truth of the teaching of salvation by grace alone. Some were arguing that if salvation was by grace, apart from works, and God's grace was sufficient to cover all sin, then if we kept on sinning, it really didn't matter.

The truth we need to see comes by understanding our present position. You see, our position has changed because of the death of Christ. The question is: Should we continue to sin? The answer is: by no means!

WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST

*“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.** If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.”* Romans 6.4-5

What we have in Christ centers around what God provided for us through the death of Christ. We have a new life, and in that new life we are free.

HOW WE LIVE IN CHRIST

*“**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 – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **For we know** that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **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 6.6-14

There are some things we need to **know**.

There are some things we need to **do**.