

Romans 6: The One About
Jonathan Cleveland
October 8, 2023

Reflection & Discussion Questions

God takes a risk with grace

If we are forgiven, what keeps us from doing whatever we want?

*What sort of picture of God do you tend to hang on to? Angry, disappointed, etc.

*What keeps you from running off again?

Paul wants to reorient the way we think about sin and righteousness

Read and discuss Romans 6:1-10 (NIV)

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have 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 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free 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.

*What is the old way of thinking about sinful things and righteousness? What is Paul saying about a new way to look at them?

*What is our identity when we take on the nature of grace?

We are IN CHRIST and UNDER GRACE

Read and discuss Romans 6:11-18 (NIV)

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 any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

*What do these verses surface about your brokenness? How do they point you to Jesus?

*What does 'obey from your heart' mean? What does it look like to be a 'slave of righteousness'?

Hell is what our rebellion creates but His gift is freedom

Read and discuss Romans 6:19-23 (NIV)

¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*What does hell as a place totally independent of God look like? How do we choose hell for ourselves living as a slave to sin?

*When have you experienced a TRUE taste of God's grace that led to life or freedom for you?

It is the beauty of eternal life that changes the heart

Paul confidently focuses on the radical nature of God's grace as the solution to Christian living.

*Where are you still enslaved to sin and the law?

*What is the Spirit telling you about grace and freedom from sin?