

Anglican Church Noosa
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Romans 6:1-14
From Grace to Glory - Dead to Sin Alive to God
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Imagine you are swimming in a pool of thick, sticky mud. You are completely covered in it. It smells disgusting, it is heavy, and you can't get clean no matter how hard you try.

Then, someone pulls you out of the mud. They wash you clean with fresh water, put a beautiful, spotless white robe on you, and bring you into a clean, bright room.

Now, let me ask you a question:

Would you immediately jump right back into the mud pool?

Of course not! That would be crazy. You are clean now. You belong in the clean room, not the mud.

In our Bible reading today, Paul is answering a very important question.

Some people in the early church were thinking, "Wow, God loves to forgive sins! His grace is amazing! So, if God gets glory by forgiving sins, shouldn't we just keep on sinning so God can show us even more grace?"

Paul's answer is short and sharp: **By no means!** Absolutely not!

1. The Radical Nature of Grace

To understand why Paul is so shocked by this question, we have to look back at what he just said in Romans chapter 5, which is what we looked at last week.

He told the church that where sin increased, God's grace increased all the more.

God's love is so massive that no amount of human mess can overpower it.

But human hearts are tricky. When we hear about unconditional love, our selfish nature immediately looks for a loophole.

- The Loophole Thinker says: "If God loves forgiving, I'll give Him more work to do! The more I sin, the better God looks when He forgives me."
- The Error: This treats God's grace like a cheap license to do whatever we want. It treats Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as a safety net for reckless living, rather than a rescue from a deadly danger.

Paul steps in to correct this huge misunderstanding. He shows us that grace does not leave us where we are. It changes our legal status, it changes our identity, and it changes our ultimate destination.

2. The Reality: You Have Died to Sin

Paul uses a very dramatic image to explain why we cannot keep living in sin. He says we have died to it. How can someone live in a house they have completely moved out of? How can a dead person obey commands?

Think about a passport. If you hold an Australian passport, you live under the laws of this country, and you owe loyalty to it.

But what happens if a person passes away? Can the police fine a dead person for speeding? No. Death breaks the legal connection.

Paul is saying that something just as real has happened to you, if you trust in Jesus.

- **The Old Master:** Before we knew Jesus, sin was our king. It ruled over us. We couldn't help but jump in the mud. It was our natural environment.
- **But there was a Break:** When Jesus died on the cross, he paid the penalty for our sin. He took our place.
- **The Result:** If you belong to Jesus, your old life under the rule of sin is finished. You are legally dead to sin's power. It no longer has a legal claim on your life.

3. The Sign: United with Christ in Baptism

How did this happen to us? Paul points us to our baptism. We view baptism as a powerful, visible sign and seal of an invisible spiritual reality—our union with Jesus.

In the founding documents at the Anglican Church at the Reformation, tells us that baptism is an instrument by which we are grafted into the Church and God's promises are visibly signed and sealed. (Article 27)

Think of a wedding ring. The ring itself doesn't make people married, but it is a powerful sign to the world that two lives have been joined together. What belongs to the husband now belongs to the wife, and vice versa. Their bank accounts, their home, and their future are now shared.

Baptism shows our "joining" to Jesus. Paul describes it like going under water and coming back up:

- **Going Under:** It is like being buried with Jesus. Our old, sinful self was crucified with him. The person you used to be without God was buried in the tomb.
- **Coming Up:** It is like being raised to a brand-new life. Just as Jesus rose from the dead and can never die again, we have been given a completely new, eternal life.

When God looks at you, he doesn't see your old messy past. He sees you united to Jesus. You share in His victory, His righteousness, and His life.

4. The Daily Battle: Count and Offer

If we are dead to sin, why do we still struggle with it every day? Why do we still get angry, tell lies, or act selfishly?

Because even though sin has been defeated, it still tries to shout orders at us. It acts like a defeated boss who has been fired from the company but still shows up to the office trying to tell everyone what to do. It has no actual authority, but it does have a loud voice.

Paul gives us two practical commands for our daily lives:

A. Count Yourself Dead (Verse 11)

Paul says, "Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." The word "count" is an accounting term. It means to record a fact in your ledger. It means to calculate based on reality.

If you are tempted to lie or be greedy, you need to tell yourself the truth: *"That is not who I am anymore. That belongs to the old mud pool. I am alive to God. Sin is no longer my boss."*

The second practical command Paul gives us is to

B. Offer Your Body Parts to God (Verses 12-13)

Do not let sin use your body for evil. Instead, offer your body to God as an instrument for doing what is right.

Imagine a sharp knife. In the hands of a thief, it is a dangerous weapon used to hurt people. But in the hands of a surgeon, it is a tool used to heal people and save lives. The knife itself is neutral; it depends on who is holding it.

The different parts of your body are like those tools:

- **Your Tongue:** Will you use it as a weapon to gossip, or as a tool to encourage someone?
- **Your Hands:** Will you use them to take things, or to help someone who is down?
- **Your Eyes and Ears:** Will you use them to take in bad things, or to read God's word and listen to truth?

5. Living Under Grace

Paul finishes this section with a wonderful promise in verse 14: *"For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."*

Living under the law means trying to save yourself by your own hard work, always worried you haven't done enough.

Living under grace means knowing that Jesus has already done it all.

You do not have to live in fear of failing.

You are not trying to earn God's love by being perfect.

You already have His love because of Jesus!

Grace means Jesus paid your debt, washed you clean, and gave you His Holy Spirit to help you live a life that pleases Him.

So, let's step away from the mud pool once and for all.

Let's remember who we are every single morning when we wake up: dead to sin, alive to God, and united with King Jesus forever.

Amen.