

Reading: Romans 6:1-14



Paul Anticipated Objections
to Justification by Faith Alone



What Is Going On At This Point In Romans?

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase?

Romans 6:1 (NIV UK)

- Some commentators say Romans chapter 6 through 8 is about sanctification.
- They say that Paul was beginning a new section in Romans at this point
- If so, why does Paul begin chapter 6 with this question?
- Because He has NOT YET FINISHED with Justification by Faith Alone,
- And will not finish with it until chapter 8, which begins:
- ***Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...***
- 6v1 is an oral communication technique.. **The culture was oral, not literate.**



Paul Anticipated A Mis-understanding

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase?

Romans 6:1 (NIV UK)

- A danger of preaching justification by faith alone, is to be mis-understood.
- Those that mis-understand can raise this objection – another is in chapter 7.
- This does not happen if justification by good works (of the law) is preached.
- This does not happen with Roman Catholic teaching either.
- R.C. teaching believes in justification and grace too, but not for next week.
- But: *it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Ephesians 2:8, 9 (NIV UK)



It Is Vital to Understand Paul's Answer

*By no means! We are those who have died (!) to sin;
how can we live in it any longer?*

Romans 6:2 (NIV UK)

- **We** is emphasised by Paul: he means something that is unique to Christians.
- **Note** the Greek Aorist tense (!). This does not occur in the English language.
- This tense denotes something that happened **at a particular point in time**.
- **Note also:** the KJV is not correct here: “How shall we, that are dead...”
- When Paul says “We who have died..” he does not mean “we who are dead..”
- This is also part of understanding Paul on justification by faith alone



Paul Explained His Answer In Verses 3 to 10

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? 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.

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. 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 – because anyone who has died has been set free 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.

Romans 6:3-10 (NIV UK)



Let's Take It Section By Section

- ***Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised (!) into Christ Jesus***
- ***were baptised (!) into his death?***
- ***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.*** Romans 6:3, 4 (NIV UK)

Compare 1 Corinthians 12:13 (NIV UK 1984 Text)

- ***For we were all baptised (!) by one Spirit into one body...***
- Paul meant what The Holy Spirit does for us when we become Christians.
- (This is not The Baptism in the Holy Spirit) (!) = The Greek Aorist Tense: something that happened at a particular time



The Second Section – The Implication

- ***For if we have been united (✓) with him in a death like his, we will (F) certainly also be united (✓) with him in a resurrection like his.***

Romans 6:5 (NIV UK)

- **For** means this is explaining what Paul said in the preceding verses
- So, Paul's references to baptism mean we were being **united with Christ** in His death and resurrection.
- So justification by faith is not only about believing what Jesus did **for us**.
- It is also about believing **what happened to us as a result** of Him doing it



(✓) = The Greek Perfect Tense. (F) = The Greek Future Tense.

The Third Section – What Happened to Us

- *For we know that our old self was crucified (!) with him*
- *so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with (!),*
- **Notice** how much Paul was making this emphasis on something that has happened to us all at a particular time.

Notice also why:

- *that we should no longer be slaves to sin –*
- *because anyone who has died (!) has been set free (justified) from sin.*

Romans 6:6,7 (NIV UK)

(!) = The Greek Aorist Tense: something that happened at a particular time



The Fourth Section

- *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.*
- Romans 6:8-10 (NIV UK)**
- **Notice Paul' continued emphasis** on something that has happened to us at a particular time....
 - So, Let's group the parts together.....

(!) = The Greek Aorist Tense: something that happened at a particular time



Do You Realise That *You Died With Christ?*

- ***Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised (!) into Christ Jesus***
- *were baptised (!) into his death?*
- *We were therefore buried (!) with him through baptism into death....*
- ***For we know that our old self was crucified (!) with him,***
- *because anyone who has died (!) has been set free 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* **Romans 6:3-10 (NIV UK)**



And That You Have Been Raised With Christ

- *Or don't you know that... just as Christ was raised (!) from the dead through the glory of the Father,*
- *we too may live (!) a new life.*

Romans 6:3-10 (NIV UK Edited)

Paul Expressed This Another Way in Ephesians 2

- *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ (!) even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*
- *And God raised us up (!) with Christ and seated us (!) with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...*

Ephesians 2:4-9 (NIV UK Edited)

(!) = The Greek Aorist Tense: something that happened at a particular time



What Was Paul Really Saying?

- When Paul said “...*that our old self was crucified (!) with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with (!)*...” Romans 6:6 (NIV UK)
- **Did he mean** that we died to sin in the sense that we can no longer sin?
- **Did he mean** that we died to sin in the sense that we are Immune from temptation?
- If so, **is there something still wrong with us?**
- This is another common mis-understanding about justification by faith alone.
- It is about our **position before God** and about our **position relative to sin**.
- It is **not** about our **condition**.

(!) = The Greek Aorist Tense: something that happened at a particular time



No, That Was Not What Paul Was Saying

- Paul said “...*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** – because anyone who has died (!) has been **set free (justified) from sin.***
Romans 6:6, 7 (NIV UK)
- And: “*For we know that since Christ was raised (!) from the dead, he cannot die (!) again; **death no longer has mastery over him.*** Romans 6:9 (NIV UK)
- *Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.*
Romans 6:12 (NIV UK)
- This is about **the power and reign of sin, not its presence.**

(!) = The Greek Aorist Tense: something that happened at a particular time



What Did Paul Mean: We Died To Sin?

- First of all, realise something has **really happened** to us.
- We **died to the reign and power of sin** and so **we are no longer slaves** to it
- We **have been raised** to new life unto God.
- We need to **believe** this has happened to us:
- *Now if we died (!) with Christ, **we believe** that we will also live (F) with him.*
Romans 6:8 (NIV UK)
- Justification is through **believing**: it is justification by **faith**
- *In the same way, **count yourselves dead to sin** but alive to God in Christ Jesus*
Romans 6:11 (NIV UK)



(!) = The Greek Aorist Tense. (F) = The Future Tense

We Died To The Power and Reign of Sin

- We need to **believe** this has happened to us:
- *Now if we died (!) with Christ, **we believe** that we will also live (F) with him.*

Romans 6:8 (NIV UK)
- Justification is through **believing**: it is justification by **faith**
- We believe that our position before God and in relation to sin has changed.
- This is **not a gradual process**, something has happened to us.
- We are now no longer held guilty but credited with righteousness.
- But there is more to it than that.



(!) = The Greek Aorist Tense. (F) = The Future Tense

We Need to Think Differently

- So: ...***count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus***
Romans 6:11 (NIV UK)
- We are no longer slaves, so... ***Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness***
Romans 6:12 (NIV UK)
- (you can, you are no longer a slave)
- We are so used to being slaves to sin we need to learn to think differently.
- (After the American civil war, many slaves, had a similar problem)



Faith Without Works Is Not Faith

- Belief **without action on the basis of our belief** is not faith
- We have been raised to life in God, so The Holy Spirit is here to help.
- We are no longer slaves, so... ***Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness*** (you can, you are no longer a slave)
- *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.*
- *For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.*
- (When you act in faith like this, your condition will also gradually change)

Romans 6:12-14 (NIV UK)



Impossible to Believe And Act Upon?

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’

Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

*This is why ‘it was credited to him as righteousness.’ **The words ‘it was credited to him’ were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.** Romans 4:18-25 (NIV UK)*

