

## Romans 6

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### Kairos Questions

#### *Read Romans 6*

1. "Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?" (v. 1) Paul asks this as a rhetorical question because he knows how his Jewish readers will object, but in all likelihood he's heard this question asked in sincerity. German poet Heinrich Heine once said, "God will forgive me: that's his job." Has that quote ever characterized your attitude towards grace? If so, how? Have you encountered that attitude in others? If so, how did it affect you? What do you think is the most appropriate way to respond to someone who has that attitude?
2. Paul is critical of those who take advantage of the grace they have been given. He may be offended by the way in which those people cheapen God's grace. In what ways do we cheapen God's grace?
3. Paul's main point is one of character. Having been declared righteous through faith, we possess a new character which is no longer subject to the old order of things. Free from the condition of Adam (sin) and the domain of the law, Paul asks, "How shall we who have died to sin still live in it?" What does Paul mean by having "died to sin?" How does the knowledge that you have "died to sin" empower you in your struggle with sin, or how can it?

4. Paul helps the church combat sin not through a strict regimen of discipline or asceticism, but by walking them through what it means to be alive in Christ. At the end of verse 4, Paul describes it as “new life.” A significant part of living this new life is paying attention to that which enslaves you. As you think about our culture in particular, what are some of the specific things that enslave us or have the potential to enslave us? What about your own life? Are there specific things to which you’ve become enslaved? According to verse 16, where does slavery to sin lead? What leads to righteousness (v. 16-18)?
  
5. Unique among NT writers, Paul uses the term “in Christ” to describe those who have been justified by faith in Jesus. What are some of the ways you’ve heard that term explained? After reading Romans 6, how would you describe that term?
  
6. For Paul, baptism is a picture of the Exodus, but it is also a picture of Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. What does baptism mean to you? How does Paul’s metaphor change or enhance your understanding of it?
  
7. Have you been baptized? If so, in what ways was that experience significant for you?