

## How to Overcome Sin Romans 6

To this point in Romans, we have seen that the wrath of God against all mankind has been revealed (Ch 1-3) and how God has intervened to justify those who have faith like Abraham by the death of Jesus Christ (Ch 4-5). Chapter 6 is another important turning point introduced with the phrase "So what?" What are the implications of this gift of grace offered by God to those who believe? It is no longer our position with God in question, but our walk with God. It is not our relationship to God in focus now, but our fellowship with Him. It is not about where we will spend eternity, but how we should spend our time on Earth. While much of what is written in the first five chapters applies to those outside of the Body of Christ as well as those within, most of what is contained in the remainder of Romans is only applicable to those who have come to Christ. If the first 5 chapters have dealt with our "justification", the next 3 chapters will tackle our "sanctification" – that is how we are set apart as those who have been justified. How now should we live?

What makes justified people different? This chapter will tell us it is in our attitude to sin. Sin offends God's holiness. It is totally against his character and utterly repugnant to Him. And when we are freely justified by His grace, it is going to affect us as well. Sin does not worry those who have not been justified. In fact, unjustified people will justify sin! But justified people will always struggle with sin. This chapter lays a foundation with principles of how we can overcome sin.

So Paul asks in the opening verse (v1), in view of the amazing gift of Grace that God offers in the previous chapters, what is our response? How are we to act when faced with sin in our lives? Twice in this chapter (v1, 15) Paul will challenge the view that because God's grace is abundant, we can go on committing sin. Some might suggest that the more we sin the more God will demonstrate His grace. Paul says strongly "No way!" God's grace should never be an excuse to do what we like. We cannot go on sinning and get away with it, just because we know God will forgive us if we confess it later. While none of us are immune from the affect of sin in our lives and we all fail at times, it is never anticipated that we can sin as we like and then come crawling back to God for forgiveness. 1 John 3:6, 9 reminds us that justified people do not habitually continue to sin.

So how are we to overcome sin? This chapter explains 3 stages or levels that justified people must go through involving their minds, their hearts and their will.

### What we must know... The mind

In the first 9 verses, there are 3 things we must know in order to overcome sin.

Justified people know they identified with Christ's death as demonstrated in their baptism v3. Water baptism is a picture of our identification with Christ. We now belong to Him and show the story of Christ's death, burial and resurrection in our baptism. So now we aim to please Him, not ourselves.

Justified people know their old nature was crucified with Christ v6. Our old self that lived for self was nailed to the cross of Christ. Gal 2:20 says we have been crucified with Christ. So the old nature that did what it pleased before we were justified has been destroyed.

Justified people know that Christ has conquered death v9. And we also have been raised to a new life with Christ and are to walk in that new life now. You cannot live the same if your old life is dead. The reign of sin in our lives has been replaced by the reign of God's grace

Justified people know that they have died to sin by identifying with Jesus in his death and resurrection. They cannot live the same as they used to. They are to live a new "resurrected" life.

If you are new or visiting; a special warm welcome to you. We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

### **This Morning**

**Speaker** Ross Pettigrew

### **This Evening**

- JCF 5.00pm

### **Next Sunday**

10th May. John Hannah

17th May. Nick Brennan

### **Thursday Kidz Club**

6:30 - 8:00 pm

7 - 12 year olds

Ph: Allan Maguire - 4767197

### *Prayer Items*

**Vivienne**, Fiji, requests prayer for the Fiji Gospel Education Board meeting today. They have very kindly offered some of the Gospel High School land for the Gospel School for the Deaf to use to build a hostel for the intermediate and older boys. A letter of acceptance has been written and will be presented at this board meeting. Please pray that it will be accepted without problems or delays.

Please pray that land maybe found to build a hostel for the intermediate and older girls.

**Graham & Betty**, Guatemala, would like you to pray for a family camp that will be convened from Friday to Sunday, Friday being a public holiday. Pray that there will be spiritual enlightenment, wholesome recreation and physical safety.

What we must consider... The heart

The word "reckon" or "count" is an accounting term. Knowing assimilates the facts in our mind. But knowing is not sufficient (James 2:19). We must respond to that knowledge by a mindset that is against any sin in our lives. Considering weighs up those facts and produces an attitude of heart. In the light of the knowledge that we are dead to sin, we are called on to anticipate our response to sin as though we are dead to it. We need to "play dead" when sin comes knocking at our hearts door. "Dead to sin, but alive to God" (v11). This is done by refusing to allow sin to reign or dominate in our lives. Basically, it means we should kick sin off the throne of our lives. At any point in time, we can have Christ on the throne, or my old self on the throne. While we might know that our old nature was crucified with Christ, we can easily take him off the cross for a time to reign in our lives to fulfil a desire. But this should not be. This will produce a conflict between the old self and the new nature that will be the subject of the next chapter.

What we must do... The will

Knowing with the mind and considering with the heart must be followed by actions of the will. The key word here is "yield", or "offer". What we do with our bodies will indicate who is on the throne of our lives; Christ or self. If we offer our bodies to commit sin, we are demonstrating sin is the master reigning. Instead we should offer our bodies to God as instruments to do right. And that is our choice, based on what we know and what we have considered. 2 Cor 5:17 reminds us that when we belong to Christ, we are a new creation – the old has past and the new has come. What we do with our bodies is important to God. Justified people should be seen to be different in what they yield their bodies to. In this context another "Don't you know..." is brought up (v16). The one to whom you yield is the one who reigns on the throne of your life. And you are a slave to obey whoever you put on that throne. One of the tricks of Satan is to make you think you are free when you do what you please. But in reality you become his slave and a slave to sin. The alternative is to become God's slave by offering your body to God. The results will become obvious – increasing wickedness or increasing holiness (v19). Ultimately, slavery to sin leads to death, described in v23 as wages. But God's gift of grace, and our response of yielding our bodies to God to let him rule us will lead us to eternal life.

In summary, how do we overcome sin? First we must know that we have died to sin. Second we must consider ourselves to be dead to sin. And thirdly, we must act by yielding ourselves to God and not to sin. What practical things can we do to achieve this? Rom 13:14 reminds us not to dabble with the sinful nature. Avoid areas where you know you will be tempted. James 1:13-15 tells us that we are our own worst enemy and we cannot blame God tempting us to sin. Watch where you go, what you see and what you listen to. Develop a mindset that hates sin. Offer your body as a living sacrifice to God (Rom 12:1). Get involved in activity and service for God. It may sound easy but there will be a struggle (ch 7) for which God has provided resources (ch 8). Overcoming sin will only be resolved when we pass from this life being saved from the presence of sin and we are called into the presence of God.

Lessons for Today

1. Am I justified before God today? Have I accepted God's salvation offered by faith in Jesus Christ and his atonement for my sin at the cross? Or does God's wrath still rest on me? Are you "saved"?
2. Do others recognise that I have been justified by observing my different attitude to sin?
3. Does sin in your life worry you? Do you struggle with sin or do you accept it? Or perhaps you even justify sin ("The Lord told me...")?
4. In the light of what I know and have considered, what specific actions do I need to take now to overcome sin and demonstrate that Christ is Lord of my life? What is the sin that easily dominates me that I need to overcome and "play dead"?
5. Who is on the throne of my life right now?

## Small Groups

### **Tuesday**

- Ladies Home Group - see Laura Hannah 473-7954
- Central Home Group - see Steve Clark 479-2070
- Brockville Home Group - see Geoffrey Stewart 476-7888

### **Thursday**

- JCF Home Group - see Gideon Chang 488-2118
- Town Home Group - see Dave Smeaton 453 0569

### **Friday**

- Friday morning Home Group - see Bethney Stewart 476-7888

## Prayer Groups

### **Wednesday**

- Men's prayer group meeting at Dan and Stephs from 6:30am till around 8am.

### **Thursday**

- All Saints main church building from 5:15pm

### **Sunday**

- All Saints Hall from 9.00am

## NOTICES

- Crèche Roster  
3rd May Shana Copland, Courtney Stewart  
10th May Vicki Halford, Jen Pettigrew
- Share your faith the way Jesus did. "Way of the Master" free evangelism training course.  
Saturday May 9th & 23rd  
8:30am - 12:30pm  
Morning tea provided  
Cornerstone Church Hall  
Contact Quentin 0273 222 233 [qdatsun@gmail.com](mailto:qdatsun@gmail.com)