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Shall We Continue in Sin?

Romans, Part XXXI

Romans 6:1-14

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I. Two Humanities

II. Overviewing Romans 5-8

God's righteousness results in one of two outcomes when it encounters fallen human beings: *condemnation* or *justification*. In ch. 5-8 Paul develops the theme of *justification*, insisting that *all those whom God justifies He shall also glorify* (8:30).

- 5:1-11 Having been *justified by faith*, we rejoice in hope of *the glory of God*
- 5:12-19 While Adam failed to lead man *to glory*, Christ shall succeed.
- 5:20-7:25 While the law failed to lead man *to glory*, Christ shall succeed.
 - 5:20-21 The law fails because of sin but Christ shall succeed by grace.
 - 6:1-7:25 Answering potential slanders or misunderstandings:
 - 6:1-14 *Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?*
 - 6:15-7:6 *Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?*
 - 7:7-12 *Is the law sin?*
 - 7:13-25 *Is the law to blame for my sin?*
- 8:1-39 Rejoice: All those whom God justifies, these He also glorifies

III. Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

A. Certainly not! (1-2a cf. Jas 2:20; 1 Jn 2:4)

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not!

B. Our Identity (2b-4)

²...How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Why shouldn't we continue in sin? Because we have been *baptized into Christ* and this means that we have *died to sin* (2). Our new _____ is the foundation of our *conduct*.

C. Our Hope (5-11 cf. Jn 5:26; 6:44; Heb 7:25)

⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If we have been united with Christ in His death (a past reality), then we shall be united in the likeness of His resurrection (our future hope – 5,8). As Paul wrote earlier, "Therefore, having been justified by faith... we rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (5:1,2). All those whom God justifies, He shall also glorify.

D. Our Calling (12-14 cf. Rom 8:3-4)

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

While apart from Christ we can do nothing but sin, in Christ, we have liberty to practice righteousness. As Paul writes later in Romans, “what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the _____ might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (8:3-4).

IV. The Sin of Anti-Nomianism

There is an inextricable connection between *justification* and *sanctification*. Hence, the one who shows no interest in holiness is a liar and the truth is not in him (1 Jn 2:4 cf. Rom 3:7-8).

A. Look back to your baptism

First, Paul urges us to look back at our baptism which signifies and seals our union with Christ in all that He is and offers (4-6, 10). He places His Name upon us and gives us a new identity. *...think of baptism as being like a wedding. Marriage is more than a wedding. But a wedding is important. It signals your change of status. You may not feel different. But your identity has changed completely. It is not that you need to live like a married person so you become more married. It is the other way around: you get married so you can live as a married person. Nor can you be half married and half single. You are completely married. It is the same with baptism. Baptism changes your status...* (Tim Chester)

	Born into Adam “Alive” to:		Baptized into Christ “Alive” to:	
In Christ we are dead to:	Death		Life	In Adam we are dead to:
	“Law”		“Grace”	
	Covenant of Works		Covenant of Grace	
	Condemnation		Justification	
	Sin		Righteousness	

B. Look forward to your resurrection (1 Cor 6:13-15; 1 Jn 3:2-3)

The Apostle John writes, “Beloved... we know that when [Jesus] is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him _____ himself, just as He is pure” (1 Jn 3:2-3). If we live in the hope of sharing Jesus’ glory, then we will reflect that glory now.

C. Live righteously in the present (vv. 2,4,6,7,11,12)

In Christ we have been set free from the _____ of sin. Hence, our calling is to respond in faith to God’s Word preached and visualized in the sacraments. Tim Chester explains:

After you get married, you need to act according to the new reality... You have to think of yourself in a new way because your status has changed. In the same way, Paul says to baptized Christians, “Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Live as baptized people. Your baptism happened in the past. For some of us that was many years ago. But each and every day we are to look back to that moment and remember the reality it marked. (131)

V. Conclusion