

CrossRoads Baptist Church
June 22, 2008 10:15 a.m.
Romans 6:14
Romans #40

Our Identity Is Grace

This is the eight message from Romans 6 and it will be our last one as we prepare to talk further about the law next week from Romans 7.

I heard a statement about two months ago that said if people do not misunderstand grace then you are not preaching Biblical grace. I have thought a lot about that.

Last Sunday I preached about holiness, so there is no doubt that this church understands that true grace leads to holiness (Titus 2:11-14).

But apparently misunderstanding grace is not something new, it happened to Paul. Romans 5: 20-21 Paul tells us that where sin abounded, grace super-abounded. Paul is saying that you can't out sin grace. This was his statement after clearly teaching that justification was by grace through faith and not by any works. Apparently some misunderstood his teaching on grace to which he replies in chapter 6 that it doesn't mean you keep on sinning.

Grace does not give us a ticket to do evil. That is antinomianism.
Anti - against; nomos – moral law.

That type of thinking says, "The worse I get the better God seems. So to make Him look even better, I will look as bad as possible."

But that doesn't work for a teenager who says to his mom, "I'll keep my room as messy as possible so my friends can see what a good housekeeper you are."

That doesn't work for an employee who says to his boss, "I'm going to be lazy and steal from your company so you can have the opportunity to display what a great boss you are."

Perhaps we don't sin so God can give us grace, but we do sin knowing God will give grace.

But this morning we need to understand that God is a God of great grace.

Matthew 1:21 "For He shall save His people from their sins."

John 1: 14 "full of grace and truth."

Ephesians 1: 7 "we have forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

Romans 11:6 "And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work."

Then Romans 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Law what I have done or not done.
Grace is what Jesus has done.

Law condemns
Grace forgives

Law is a stick that knocks you down
Grace is a hand that lifts you up

Law tells you what you can't do
Grace tells you what you can do

Law is death
Grace is life

Law is the hand of God
Grace is the face of God

Law is the judgment of God
Grace is the gift of God

Law exposes
Grace covers

Everyone is under law
Everyone can be under grace

Law reigns because of sin
Grace reigns because of righteousness

Law puts us in bondage
Grace frees us.

Law produces no fruit
Grace produces good fruit

Law causes us to be ashamed, guilty, forsaken, isolated
Grace removes the shame and guilt, brings us in, brings us the comfort of God.

He's not saying that its impossible for Christians to sin, its just stupid.

This is the greatest objection to justification by grace through faith apart from the works of the law. It seems to open the door to rampant sinning.

Notice Paul did not correct their understanding of justification. He corrected their misunderstanding of grace.

He tells us in verse 19 that sin leads to more sinning. This is true when:

There are four things that will happen to cause more sin:

1. When we don't deal with the issue of our motivations.
If we are not clear that what we are doing is for God's glory and not ours, then wrong motivation will lead to more sin. Sin is all about our feelings anyway.

2. When we don't deal with the issues of the mind.

When we permit ourselves to think, "I can think that, it doesn't hurt anyone," then wrong thinking will lead to more sin.

3. When we don't deal with the issues of the masses.
When we permit us to excuse our sin by saying, "Everybody is doing it, everybody talks that way, everybody deals with people that way," then this will lead to more sin.

4. When we don't deal with the issues of missed service.
When we commit the sin of omission ("a chance to do good, an opportunity to forgive, a chance to serve, to witness,) and we don't correct it next time by actually doing the thing prompted, then it will lead to more sin.

But grace is even when we sin, we can be forgiven.

Check your monthly credit card bill. It has a grace period. But what about after a month? More grace? Six months? More grace?

No, my statement says, "Grace Period, 20 days." No much grace.

God's grace is that when you have a bill you can not pay, He steps in and pays the bill and cancels the debt.

German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that cheap grace "amounts to the justification of sin without the justification of the repentant sinner who departs from sin and from who sin departs. Cheap grace is not the kind of forgiveness of sin which frees us from the toils of sin...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ. Costly grace is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciples leaves his nets and follows him."