

DEAD TO SIN

Some false teachers slandered the gospel by claiming that Paul's teaching on grace encourages sin. God's grace abounds more where sin abounds more, so we should keep on sinning! They also vainly argued that if we are no longer under law, then we are free to sin. Of course, they were intentionally misrepresenting the gospel in order to convince people that the Gentiles needed the law to keep them in line like the Jews (as if the law actually succeeded in that!).

Paul rejects the notion that God's grace encourages us to sin. He said the exact opposite in **Romans 2:4**, "*Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*" **Repentance** is the right reaction to God's grace that removes our sins from us! (See what God's grace teaches us to **do** in **Titus 2:11-14**).

Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

No way! This is because we are dead to sin because we have **died** to sin (**Rom. 6:2**). We died to sin by being baptized into Christ's death. (**Rom. 6:3**). His death was to rid us of sin (**Matthew 26:28**), so His death and our baptism into His death have the same purpose—"so sins will be remitted" (in **Matt. 26:28** and **Acts 2:38**).

Rom. 6:7 says that we are freed from sin if we have died to sin. We no longer have a relationship to sin. We are dead to it, and we will not allow it to rule over us as it did before we became Christians (**Rom. 6:11-14**).

Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?

No way! We must realize if we continue to sin, then we are slaves to sin (**Rom. 6:16, John 8:34**). The same process that made us dead to sin also made us free from slavery to sin and made us slaves to righteousness (**Rom. 6:3-4, 17**). It was by **obeying** from the heart the **form** of doctrine (teaching). The form of teaching we obey is the teaching in the form of a commandment. The teaching of the gospel (**1 Cor. 15:1-4**) is: the death of Jesus for our sins according to the scriptures, His burial, and His resurrection three days later. Baptism is the command we must obey. We are spiritually dead, we are buried, and we are raised to walk in newness of life.

We are not slaves to sin. So **don't sin!**