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Is Grace an Excuse to Sin? P4

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?” (Romans 6:1).

Salvation by grace through faith alone does not give Believers a “license to sin,” as some false teachers instruct. These promoters fail to realize that a change occurs in truly “*born-again*” (John 3:3) Believers—they receive “*adoption as sons*” (Gal. 4:5) and become “*the children of God*” (1 John 3:1). This is a change both in position and in nature.

Positionally, we go from being unjustified before God and deserving of judgment to being justified before God by Jesus’ righteousness credited to us (Rom. 4:5; 23-25). A true profession of faith in Jesus means God removes you from slavery to the world by His divine power and transfers you into His household as His child. “*Having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness*” (Rom. 6:18), meaning that “*as long as the heir is a child [dependent], he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father...Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God*” (Gal. 4:1-2;7). As good children, you must “*present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification*” (Rom. 6:19b), and inheriting eternal life.

Believers also experience a change in their nature spiritually, becoming a “*new creature*” (2 Cor. 5:17), receiving the Holy Spirit inside them. The Father “*sanctifies*” His children through the indwelt Holy Spirit, making them more like Jesus, the “*firstborn of many brethren*” (Rom. 8:29), according to the Law of the Spirit, “*for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of*

sin and of death...so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit” (Rom. 8:2-5), for “*you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness*” (Rom. 8:9-10). The Law of the Spirit of Life is not a Law for Salvation, as we have already been justified by Christ’s blood—it is the Law of the Father’s House, administered by the guardian of God’s Household, the Holy Spirit, Who nurtures, educates, and disciplines us to bear His fruit, which fulfills the Law (Gal. 5:22-23; 5:14).

Believers can resist and rebel against the Holy Spirit at times (and seasons), but God is a good Father and He disciplines us to correct us and mature us in His ways. If a child of God continues to grieve the Holy Spirit or quench His direction in their lives, without repenting, there are serious consequences in this life and in Eternity—discipline now (Heb. 12:4-12) and a disqualification in the rewards of our inheritance (1 Cor. 3:11-15). The children of God are no more free to sin without consequences than a two-year-old is to tantrum.

So, try “*to learn what is pleasing to the Lord*” (Eph. 5:10); “*be imitators of God, as beloved children*” (Eph. 5:1). “*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy’*” (1 Peter 1:14-16). “*Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh*” (Gal. 5:16). Even so, Amen.

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