

THE DISGRACE OF GRACE
Romans 6
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INTRODUCTION

- A. God has feelings.
 - 1. What grace is all about: His mercy, love and kindness.
 - 2. But, He wants His feelings respected, Mt. 7:21.
 - 3. Unfortunately, some of us *take God's feelings for granted*, while others of us *take advantage of God's feelings*.
- B. We Disgrace His Grace by living as if there are:
 - 1. "No Rules" keeping us from doing what we wish.
 - 2. "Nothing But Rules" keeping us from doing what we could.
- C. Consider the possibilities of our abusing God's grace with either of these extremes.

I. NO RULES.

- A. Introduction.
 - 1. *"I fear that it is easier for some of us to be influenced than it is for us to have an influence. We'd rather blend than contend with our culture. We don't have the heart to be different and stand apart."* (Winkler)
 - 2. To have or maintain our relationship with God:
 - a. We try to make it okay to disobey.
 - b. "It's all right for me to do whatever I wish..."
 - c. "...God will have feelings for anyway."
 - 3. Take His feelings for granted – disgrace His grace.
- B. Revisit the Questions of Paul, Romans 6:1, 15.
 - 1. *"What shall we say then?"*
 - 2. *"Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?"*
 - 3. *"What then?"*
 - 4. *"Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?"*
 - 5. Look at the Pronouns Used: "Are we..."
 - a. Paul, formerly a blasphemer, persecutor, violent aggressor, 1 Tim. 1:13-14.
 - i. *Showcase of Grace*.
 - b. Could Paul continue to say ugly things? Destroy lives? Efforts to exterminate the church?
- D. Look at the Unsound Concept.
 - 1. Are we to continue in sin? – Are we to sin?
 - a. The first – to continue to walk down the path of sin, believing it is okay with God because of grace?
 - b. The second – deciding to go ahead and do something sinful, thinking all right because of God's grace?
 - 2. Contrary to God – Romans 6.
 - a. Repentance – death of the person we used to be, vss. 1-2.
 - b. Baptism – the line between what we used to be and the changed person, v. 3-4.
 - c. New life should be trying to live, vss. 5-6.

- E. Look at the Profound Answer:
 1. “*May it never be!*” vs. 2, 15.
 - a. “*By no means,*” (ESV).
 - b. “*God forbid*” (KJV, ASV).
 - c. “*Certainly not*” (NKJ).
 2. We died to our past, no longer instruments of unrighteousness.
 3. To be instruments of righteousness, vs. 13; Eph. 4:20-24.

II. NOTHING BUT RULES.

- A. We swing from one extreme to another.
 1. We take God’s grace for granted and do whatever.
 2. It is the opposite extreme – taking advantage.
 - a. Treat Him like He is here for us.
 - b. Try to think for Him, speak for Him, twist His word to support our self-righteous piety.
 3. “We turn our traditions into His truth to determine what is right, and then we think we are right by doing all that we say is right and doing it all in the right way. I know. It’s hard to believe that there are people who think that way, but believe me, there are. To them, Christianity is all about “the rules.” They’d be the first to tell you it’s impossible to earn your salvation, but at the same time, they’re living like they have to, and they expect everyone else to as well. “Do what is right, do it in the right way, and that’s the way to be right with God,” is their idea. Their relationship with God hinges more on *what they are doing* for God than on *what God has done or is doing* for them through Jesus. This mindset makes us legalists who disgrace the grace of God.” (Winkler)
 4. Consider Paul’s words, Gal. 2:21; 5:4
- B. Heartless Rule-keeping will Nullify the Grace of God.
 1. To nullify is to displace or reject.
 2. If we are righteous by rule-keeping, then we reject His grace.
 - a. It is like we don’t need His grace.
 - b. We can do it on our own.
 3. Old Testament rule-keeping system of law.
 - a. What does the Holy Spirit tell us, Gal. 3:10?
 - b. Before his conversion – Paul tried this way.
 - i. Phil. 3:5-6; cf. Acts 23:1, “*Brethren, I have lived a life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.*”
 - ii. But was he?! Acts 9:4, “*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*”
- C. Heartless Rule-keeping will Vilify the Character of God.
 1. If being right with God is based on own merit:
 - a. Christ died for no purpose.
 - b. No purpose rendered “without cause”, Jn. 15:25.
 - c. No cause for Christ to die – if we are saved by our own merit.
 - d. No need for Golgotha.
 2. It turns God’s gift of compassion into gesture for cruelty.
 - a. Jesus double-crossed by God – when at the cross.
 - b. He was betrayed by God.

- c. Makes God mean, rather than merciful.
 - d. Vicious instead of gracious.
- D. Heartless Rule-keeping will once again Crucify the Son of God.
 - 1. Try to be justified by rule-keeping.
 - a. More often than faith motivating us to obey God out of love.
 - b. Gal. 2:16; cf. 3:11.
 - 2. Try to justify our rule-keeping anyway.
 - a. 1 John 5:3; cf. Jn. 14:15, “*If you love Me,...*”
 - b. We know obedience is a product of love, but we turn it into doing what we have been told because it is what we’ve been told.
- E. What Does This Thinking Do to Us?
 - 1. Gal. 5:4
 - 2. Three things:
 - a. Not where we used to be – have been severed from Christ.
 - b. Not with Jesus anymore – we’ve been severed from Christ.
 - c. Fallen from grace –
 - i. Yes, we can fall from grace.
 - ii. We fall from the benefits once enjoyed.
 - iii. Blessings from mercy, love and kindness.
- F. What This Thinking Does to Jesus?
 - 1. Crucify Him once again, Heb. 6:4-6.
 - 2. It is another slap in the face; spit on His person.
 - 3. It is nailing His hands and feet to the cross.
 - 4. Hurling insults and blasphemy.
 - 5. How? Why?
 - a. By falling away.
 - b. After all, we’re doing what’s right...in the right way...and that’s why we’re right.

CLOSING

- A. Simply Incredible, Incredibly Simple.
- B. The wonderful grace of God!