

## Sermon: Grace

Text: Romans 6:1-14 ESV

Gary L. Wackler

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**Introduction:** No one can rightly claim they are good enough to enter the Kingdom of Heaven on their own merit. We all are in need of grace to make up the difference between our performance and what God requires of His followers.

Scripture tells us:

**I. Baptism Is the \_\_\_\_\_ of New Life** (vv. 4-5).

**II. A Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Is Essential** (vv 5-8).

As a soldier of the cross in God's army:

**III. There Should Be No \_\_\_\_\_** (vv. 9-14).

**Conclusion:** As grace is received it causes me to give my attention to my relationship with Christ and others. It causes me to reflect more on His needs and their needs than on my own.

A last word about grace comes from Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*, pp. 38-39: "After centuries of handling and mishandling, most religious words have become so shopworn nobody's much interested anymore. Not so with grace, for some reason. Mysteriously, even derivatives like gracious and graceful still have some of the bloom left.

Buechner finishes by saying: "There's only one catch. Like any gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it.

Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too."

## Romans 6:1-14 ESV

### Dead to Sin, Alive to God

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self[a] was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free[b] from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

#### Footnotes:

[a] Romans 6:6 Greek *man*

[b] Romans 6:7 Greek *has been justified*