**“The Whole Package”**

Going deeper in Romans 6:1-14

**INTRODUCTION** In chapter 5 the Apostle Paul has been talking about how sin had entered into creation and distorted God’s purposes for you and I as well as for all of creation. Sin entered through humanity and their choices. Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection has been the answer to this. The gift of life and a restored relationship with our Creator came as a free gift (grace) of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Apostle Paul now turns to a question about grace and ongoing sin.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 So what should we say then? Should we continue to sin so that God’s grace might increase? 2 Of course not! We died to sin; how can we live in it? 3 Or don’t you know that when we were baptized in Christ Jesus we died with him to sin? 4 When you were lowered under the water it is like the burial of Jesus and when you were raised out of the water it is like the resurrection of Jesus. This is through and for the glory of the Father (see John 17:20-24) so we might walk in the newness of life that comes with the grace and power of God 5 so we might be united together in dying to the miserableness of sin and so we might really live in and through his resurrection. 6 We all know this: Our old self-centered life was crucified so that sin would not control us and we would no longer need to be slaves to sin. 7 For he who has died to sin has been freed from it. 8 Of course, that means when we die with Christ to sin through faith, we become truly alive with him. 9 We know that Christ was raised from the dead and that he cannot die again. Death is no longer in charge. 10 When he died, he put sin to death and he did that once for all. This means he truly lives a life to and for God’s purposes. 11 In the same way, you can count yourselves dead to the bottomless pit of sin and truly alive to God’s purposes in Christ Jesus. 12 That means you cannot let sin and your own desires be in charge of how you conduct your lives. 13 Don’t put yourself in positions where sin can be in charge again, but stand together with God as ones brought to life and ready for action; living in ways consistent with God’s purposes. 14 Sin cannot be in charge over you because you are no longer under the old tyranny. You are living in the grace and freedom of life with God.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think it means to die to sin?

2. Why do think Paul uses the image of baptism to explain dying to sin? Paul is using the image of adult baptisms here. What parallels do you see between adult baptism and death to sin and new life in Jesus?

3. Throughout this passage Paul speaks of baptism and new life in the plural. Why do you think that is?

4. What do you think it means to practice the teaching in verses 11-13? How do we help each other in the fight against sin and living with the power of Jesus’ resurrection? If you are in a small group, how can you help each other with this?

5. What helps you put God’s desires first in your life?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Spend some time praising the Lord Jesus for what he has done for you through his death and resurrection.

\*Share with the Lord Jesus some of the areas you are struggling with sin and need his power through the Holy Spirit to be at work in your life.

\*Praise the Lord Jesus that He has won the battle for you.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

In this passage the Apostle Paul makes it clear that living by faith through grace must involve an ongoing battle with sin and all that separates us from God and his purposes. What are areas of your life that you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, need to fight the battle with sin? What difference will others see in your life because of this?