

Holiness

Part 5

Saints, Sons & Sin:

How Grace Conquers Sin, Cultivates Good & Calls us to Glory

(Part 1)

An Overview of Romans 6-8

Introduction:

Two Weeks:

- 1. The Gospel Theology of Sin and Change in the Christian Life*
- 2. Grace Resources and Our Responsibility in the Decline of Sin and the Growth of Holiness*

I. The Declaration of Our Sanctification - *Romans 6*

A. A Stunning Grace & (therefore) a Surprising Question - *Reviewing Romans chapters 1-5*

B. An Unstoppable Grace & (therefore) a Revolutionary Answer - *Transforming Analogies...*

1. Our Union with Christ - *Dead to Sin, Raised to a New Life* vv. 1-14
2. Our Allegiance to God - *Free from Sin, Bound to God* vv. 15-23

II. The Dilemma of Our Sanctification - *The Contrasting Paths of Romans 7 & Romans 8:1-11*

Romans 7:1-6 - Free from the Law & **Romans 7:7-12** - The Function of the Law

Romans 7:13-20

A Testimonial Illustration of the Law's single purpose
and of its deadly futility as a means of gaining Salvation or growing its fruits

[**Romans 3:19-20** true before & after salvation]

I believe that, often, the wrong question drives the debate on a right interpretation of Romans 7:13-20
[Unbeliever? Old Covenant Jew? New Christian? Mature Christian?]

This text is less about the spiritual season of a person's life and more about the futility and death of
Law & Flesh in any season of life...

Two Very Different Paths:

Sanctification by Law

Orients toward Law engages the Flesh

Self-centered & Frustrated

Focuses Backward & Inward

Wrestles with Sin

Reveals Futility

Accomplished by sin-management

Accents Failure

Condemnation (by Law's design)

Exclaims "O Wretched Man that I am..."

Sanctification by Grace

Orients toward Grace engages the Spirit

Christ-centered & Expectant

Focuses Forward & Upward

Runs after Life

Produces Fruit

Experienced in relationship

Anticipates Dramatic Success

No Condemnation (by Gospel declaration)

Exclaims "Abba, Father..."

III. The Duty of Our Sanctification - *Romans 8:12-17*

Note the nature of the calling that follows the "therefore" of v. 12:

Submit to the Spirit

Strive for Life

Starve the Flesh

Seek the Father

Stand with Christ

Set your Eyes on Glory

Savor God's Delight in us

This is not a new set of commandments or an updated behavior-checklist.

IV. The Delight of Our Sanctification - *Romans 8:18-39*

Transforming Truths of a Fruitful Spiritual Life & Walk:

A. Relationship - God's Eager **Adoption** of us. 8:14-19

B. Reward - God's Eternal **Anticipation** for us. 8:18-30

C. Rest - God's Endless **Adoration** of us. 8:31-39