



**20 Justified & Glorified (part one)**  
**Romans 5:20-21, 6:1-14**  
**Sunday June 9, 2019**  
**Courage Church, Detroit, MI**

This is Romans 5:20-21 and Romans 6:1-14 -

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal

life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self 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. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> **We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.** <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since **you are not under law but under grace.**”

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What we are going to do with this passage is we are going to break it up into two weeks. Today we are going to focus on the way that it flows from the argument Paul makes in chapter 5 into where we are now... and next week we will talk about it in regards to Baptism which is clearly a theme in this, but it is a theme WITHIN A THEME and IF we don't capture the heart behind the BIG idea, then what he says about baptism will come across far less significant than it really is.

Remember, Paul is saying all of this stuff here in chapter 6 as a way to answer the question that he lays out at the front end of this, and that question is:

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

And the obvious answer is NO. No, we are not to continue in sin, JUST BECAUSE the grace of God covers it. I think that most of you in your hearts know that... but I want you to search your hearts for a moment and really ask yourself... WHY?

if you really, truly believe that the blood of Jesus Christ meets you in your darkest place, in your darkest hour... in the broken places of your heart... if you really believe, as Paul says in Romans 8, that NOTHING SEPARATES US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD... then why not continue acting on anything that your heart desires and doing anything that you want to do during your short time on this earth?

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think about it.

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My kids last day of school was this week. Fiona's last day was Wednesday, and Milly and Brooklyn finished Friday. And on Friday, I was driving in the car with Fiona to pick up Milly and Brooklyn, and I was showing Fiona the song "Redemption Songs" by Bob Marley.

"oh pirates yes they rob I,  
sold I to the merchant ship" --

I am sure most of you are familiar with it...

and she started singing alone. Then she stopped for a moment and said to me:

"Daddy... is this a sad song?"

and I thought about it for a moment... I ran the words over in my head, and then responded... "well, no. No, I don't consider it a sad song."

to which she responded: it sounds like a sad song.

and I said to her: to me, it is a hopeful song.

and she said "well what is it about? about someone who gets robbed?"

like... how is that hopeful?

And I explained to her:

it's a song about a revolution.

and of course... five year old Fiona... we all know what the next question was...

"What is a Revolution?"

and again, I had to think about it... about how to communicate it to a five year old, and so I sort of took a couple of the lines in the song and added some more to it... and I said:

“it is when there is something in our world THAT ISN’T as it should be... a dominating thought... a controlling thing that is doing something that it shouldn’t... and enough people decide “we aren’t going to stand aside and watch this happen anymore... we aren’t going to let it be this way anymore.”

and instead of waiting for the solution, we are going to sacrifice whatever it is that we have the potential of losing... in order that we can be a part of the solution ourselves.

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THAT’S A REVOLUTION.

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you see... Romans 5 is important... but Romans 6 SEALS it. And to separate the two as if they are two different bodies of unrelated work misses one of the most crucial parts of Paul’s entire argument, and we have been saying this and hinting at this for the last couple of weeks.

Most people read Romans 5, and they think that the big idea... the big point is that we all have inherited the sins of Adam. That we are guilty, and the world will never be the same because of Adam.

Thats the big idea... a world that IS NOT AS IT SHOULD BE.

and honestly... THAT IS A SAD SONG. That is a sad reality.

But the bigger point of Romans 5 is that: *if* what Adam did was enough to condemn all men... THEN HOW MUCH MORE DOES THIS ONE ACT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS lead to JUSTIFICATION AND LIFE FOR ALL MEN.

Because Jesus Christ did something that IGNITED A REVOLUTION THAT YOU AND I ARE CALLED TO CONTINUE.

Jesus Christ entered in to a world where people had strayed for thousands of years... they settled feuds with wars... with an eye for an eye... they retaliated... they had enemies... they marginalized women... the government was HUGE and militant and took every single thing that it wanted by force... it taxed the people SOME believe as high as 90% taxing most people into total poverty and, more importantly... TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON THE GOVERNMENT...

and along comes Jesus and says "blessed are the meek... the ones... not who are WEAK... but who restrain their strength and don't take things through violence... blessed are the merciful... the ones who keep showing mercy... blessed are the persecuted..."

He gave us something different ENTIRELY, and He demonstrated a new way to be human... He talked about a Kingdom without end, and He established A CHURCH BY WHICH THAT KINGDOM WOULD BE BROUGHT TO EARTH...

through a body of TRANSFORMED... REDEEMED people. A collection of unique, DISTINCT people working together to do something that brings Heaven to Earth...

Paul says it like this... Christ is THE HEAD... and we, the church... are HIS BODY.

It takes image bearing to a whole other level when you think about it. Its not just about being people who look like Jesus... Jesus wants to do something in you in which a change takes place to the point that Jesus can say... THATS MY BODY ON EARTH. They are it.

They understand the Revolution. They aren't passive about the things that matter... they speak up for the marginalized... they love their neighbor as themselves... they love God with all of their heart, soul and mind...

I CAN TRUST THEM TO DO WHAT I WOULD DO.

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So...

if we continue to live our lives the same way that we did before Jesus got ahold of us... if we keep living as if Adam is the authority...

then our lives won't amount to anything of value to the world we were called to be a part of and the garden we were called to cultivate.

Think about what it says in 6:1 - DO WE STAY THE SAME?

No we don't stay the same. But IF you never realize WHY we don't stay the same, then there really is honestly NO REASON TO CHANGE anything. If your "Salvation" is just this gross way for you to pat yourself on the back and affirm to yourself that you will get into Heaven one day, then yes... by all means... KEEP DOING WHAT YOU ARE DOING... Don't change anything.

But you will live your entire life missing your entire purpose... still bound by the fruit of a man who couldn't avoid THE ONLY THING THAT GOD TOLD HIM TO AVOID.

The whole point of Romans 5 is that the cross of Jesus Christ is more powerful than the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... and anyone who is IN CHRIST no longer IS IN ADAM. That is the conclusion Paul draws in Romans 5:18 and he locks it in with utter clarity in chapter 6.

But now what? Where do we go from here?

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There is a passage in the sermon on the mount, where Jesus uses extremely similar language to that of the Garden, when He talks about how there are two gates.

there is a narrow gate that leads to life, and a wide gate that leads to destruction. (Matthew 7:12-14)

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“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

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And if you read that passage closely, WHAT YOU find is that it says OF DESTRUCTION... is that the gate is WIDE, and the path is EASY to take... so it is describing a road one would take that would ultimately lead them to death... 1 John 5 talks about sin that leads you on a pathway to death. You go through a gate... you open a door... you eat from the wrong tree... and it opens up a world for you in which it is now VERY EASY FOR YOU TO CONTINUE DOWN THAT PATH, because you already took the first leap.

What comes to my mind is what Paul says in Ephesians 4:18-19 when he talks about how people actually become calloused... they have gotten so used to things being a certain way that it no longer bothers them when they do those things.

its the way that people have a conviction... and it is very difficult to do something in opposition to that conviction... usually there is guilt involved... shame... as you are doing it you know in your heart that you shouldn't be... but the second and third time it becomes a little easier and a little easier.

Because once you have opened that door... the road is easy. The more comfortable you are with sin, the more it will entangle you and the less you will even feel like it has.

But watch this: we studied this like three years ago, because so many people do not understand what this passage is saying... most people believe that the second part... the narrow gate and the hard road... means that it is very difficult to come to Jesus... and that the way that you live your life will determine if you make it through that narrow gate or not.

Which of course, is not AT ALL what it is saying.

First of all... the gate, Jesus says, is “narrow” - the literal there is (*stenos*) a strait - NOT straight with a “gh” as in no bends or turns... strait as in a narrow passage of water that connects two larger bodies of water... its small. Its cramped. Strait as in “straitjacket” -

What it is saying is that there is one way, and it has nothing to do with if you tithe or if you go to church every Sunday or if you don't do drugs and are always really nice to everyone.

it is LIMITED to, and only to... BY JESUS ALONE. Salvation is by the grace of God through faith that the blood of Jesus is enough for you because you know that on your own you can not save yourself.

You enter that way. And that is the only way. And it doesn't matter how beat up, broken, bruised, wounded you are when you approach that gate. It doesn't matter what you did on your way to the gate that day... if you enter through Jesus, you enter. And it's done.

We talked two weeks ago about the tree of life, and how man rejected that in the Garden of Eden... but how Jesus Christ HIMSELF has come and now is THE TREE OF LIFE.

Again, so much of the Bible is a retelling of the Garden narrative. Because in the garden, there were two trees that were named, and one tree represents life, and the other... death.

And the tree that represents LIFE was available to Adam and Eve BEFORE THEY DID ANYTHING AT ALL TO EARN IT. It was right there. And on the other side of the tree of life - was the life that God dreamed for them to have. It was His best intention for them, and it was eternal. Genesis 3 tells us that if they ate from the tree of life they would live forever.

Next, in Matthew 7, Jesus says that AFTER you enter the narrow gate...

after you make that crucial decision... coming to terms with the fact that you can not save yourself and you desperately need Jesus... after that...

the way is HARD that leads to LIFE.



This passage is contrary to every other religion that has ever existed, that has told us that IF YOU DO THIS, THIS, AND THIS, then God will accept you and let you into the gate.

In Jesus, we learn that YOU ENTER FIRST...

you don't have to do anything to enter... BESIDES ENTER.

But we translate what happens when we are through the narrow gate, as "the way is hard" - some translations say "the way is narrow" - which gives the impression that Jesus saves you... but then makes you walk on a tight rope between two 80 story buildings and if you slip then you will fall and land right back on that wide road.

but the Greek word we translate there as "hard" - the way is "hard" - is the word: "*thlibō*" (tha le-bo)

it means "to press hard upon" - its the image of grapes being pressed into wine. It is similar to the crucible example we gave at the beginning in Romans 5, how the silversmith puts the silver in the pot then puts it in the fire, and under the extreme heat the dross separates from the silver, purifying the piece of silver...

when you press grapes you squeeze the juices out for the wine, and what is left of the grapes can be thrown away. It is only squeezing out what is necessary for the wine.

When you go through that gate... when you become a Christian.. when you realize that the point of life is NOT acquiring things and building barns and bigger barns and always just being happy but never having an significance or impact... when you realize that the purpose of life is to bring others to Jesus, and to lift other people up, and to be a person who actually adds KINGDOM VALUE to our broken world...

when that happens... you are submitting your life to a process in which Jesus comes in there... and he begins, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATE... AFTER YOU ARE SAVED... HE begins to do a work on your heart

in which you remove the seeds... you remove the dross... you get rid of the things that are preventing you from becoming the person that our world needs.

The narrow gate is justification.

The hard road we could call sanctification or we could call it GLORIFICATION. What are the parts of you that are not properly reflecting the glory of God...

as an image bearer of God... what are the things that need to come off of us so that we can represent God to the world in a way that actually makes them WANT WHAT WE HAVE.

And that is what Paul is getting at here in Romans 6.

That yes, you have been justified.

Yes... you are not bound by the sin of Adam...

Yes... Jesus Christ the hope of glory lives in you... BUT WHAT NOW? Do you just take that grace and keep living the same way that you always lived?

The obvious answer is no. But if you think that the answer is NO because you think that if you do something wrong after Jesus saves you, that you will need Jesus to save you again... then you missed it. Paul says it in this section of Romans "Jesus will never die again." (v9) - It was a once and for all moment.

You don't keep on sinning because you are being made more like Christ SO THAT YOU CAN BRING CHRIST TO THE ARENAS OF OUR WORLD THAT ONLY YOU CAN.

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There are two verses that I want to look at specifically in this passage briefly now, and we will look at a couple of the others next week and then

we will move on... but what we are going to look at here is crucial for us to understand the significance of how chapter 6 springs off of chapter 5.

They are verses 5 and 6:

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self 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.

First, let's look at verse 6, which I think will help us explain verse 5.

Anders Nygren wrote a commentary on the book of Romans around the middle of the 20th century...

and in his book, (Commentary on Romans, pg. 247), I love the way that he explains that when a person is "In Christ..." that means that He is in THE BODY OF CHRIST.... He is a part of something BIGGER than just a person who is saved...

but the thing that makes the whole thing a bit more complicated, Anders explains: is that person also has a flesh... he also is a member of Adam, and thus by default is also part of a body of the fallen humanity...

Again... something BIGGER THAN JUST A PERSON WHO IS FALLEN... or who is flawed... or who is SINFUL.

Let me try and explain:

Of course, when we think about "the body of Christ" - we think of what? The church.

We have talked about this when we did a lot of our stuff on Discipleship... Jesus says in Luke 9:58 "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests... but the Son of man has no place to lay His head" - and most people think that Jesus is saying that He has nowhere to sleep... that He is homeless... oh... poor Jesus.

well... no. Jesus was a rabbi who traveled, he stayed somewhere many nights... he called out to Zacchaeus "I am staying at your place tonight"

When Jesus wanted a place to sleep... Jesus had a place to sleep. But Jesus didn't come to establish a bed for himself, He came to establish a Kingdom and raise up a body of people who could represent that Kingdom by REPRESENTING AND REPRODUCING THE LIFE THAT HE MODELED.

Foxes reproduce in holes... Birds lay eggs in nests...

it is the place that they reproduce, and Jesus is saying "birds and foxes have a place to reproduce themselves... but as of now I don't yet... the church hasn't been established..."

I have NO BODY to put my head on to. Obviously this IMAGERY makes more sense later, when the church IS ESTABLISHED AND PAUL SAYS "The church is the BODY and CHRIST is the HEAD of that body."

But IF we are going to view the church as THE BODY OF CHRIST... an entity that we truly believe has the power to change the entire world... then perhaps when we read "BODY OF SIN" - especially in light of the way that Paul describes SIN not only as a verb but also as a noun... as a power that both the Greeks and Jews are under (Romans 3:9)

... it would be worth considering that a body of sin is not just a sinful person or a person who has sin in their lives... but, as we talked about last week... A SINFUL SYSTEM... A power that controls the world or at least SEEKS TO... it is that Spirit of Adam that is still trying to reign in power on earth...

Matthew Crosnan has a book about this called "The Emergence of Sin"

but catch this: I was so convicted by this as I was reflecting on this passage and on the sermon on the mount and on the way of Jesus, especially when I tried to line it up next to my own life.

WHENEVER we don't live in such a way that is Christ like... that is: loving our neighbor... that is turning the other cheek... SHOWING MERCY... mourning with those who mourn... giving to those who ask...

when we FAIL to live the way of Jesus, then we are participating not in the body of Christ but in the body of sin.

We are feeding the very system that our entire Revolution is against.

But Paul says that if our OLD SELF IS CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST... as in, who we once WERE, Jesus died FOR... so that we don't have to be that person anyone and so that we don't have to be held accountable for the person we used to be...

Then it says that the body of sin is brought to nothing.

Because the way of Jesus is the only way to bring down the systems of SELF... and of selfishness and self-righteousness and self indulgence... and everything else in our world that teaches us that life is supposed to be about how YOU can get further and climb higher and have more and rule over others.

Things are off balanced, because people are in it for themselves... but the way of Jesus will bring injustice to its knees as the body of sin is brought to nothing... but it can only happen when you realize that IT IS the cross of Jesus Christ... that strait gate THAT WILL do a miracle in your life, and meet you where you are...

but once you get through the gate... once Jesus is IN YOU... you have GOT to let yourself get pressed. You have got to be open to the Holy Spirit pointing out areas of your life that maybe you have grown so calloused to... so used to doing... and the Spirit is telling you... THAT THING... that you don't even think is a big deal... IS GETTING IN THE WAY OF THE PERSON I CREATED YOU TO BE.

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Finally... verse 5... we will talk next week about baptism... but Paul is saying that in Baptism, we are joining in a death like his... meaning that when we come to Christ... the old self dies...

When we come to Christ... the power of Christ literally CRUSHES the power of sin in our lives... it no longer has ANY AUTHORITY OVER US AT ALL... verse 14 actually says that now SIN HAS NO DOMINION over us... so that whole power... sin as a body... has been brought to NOTHING... and in our lives we now can live free.

But read this closely and I want you to actually think about what Paul is saying.

He is saying that if we experienced a death like His... if we gave our lives to Jesus... if we allowed our sins to be nailed to the cross... if we allowed the Spirit to point out in us those areas that need to be pressed... if we are willing to die to our flesh so that we can live for Jesus...

then we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

As I was praying about this... and I was studying this... this is what I felt like God spoke to me about this.

a lot of people confusion resurrection with ascension.

and you may be quick to say: OBVIOUSLY... but I am telling you... its not that obvious for some people.

Most of us... we read "resurrection" - but we read this envisioning ourselves been teleported to Heaven with Jesus... we read it as "we join in an ascension like His." - am I wrong? We think that this is saying "Just like Jesus died and rose again three days later and then was taken into Heaven... thats what Paul here is saying will happen to us.

But Resurrection is not about Heaven... Resurrection is about new life... transformed life... Ephesians 2 says that we were DEAD in our trespasses... when you are dead... you don't need a doctor... you don't need medicine... you need a MIRACLE. You need God himself to breathe

life where there is no life, and do that thing that He has been doing from the beginning of time, and call something out of nothing... and Jesus was the image of that... the proof that God is big enough to take dead things and make them live again... but when He does it... He does it with a PURPOSE.

Think about the stories that we read about Jesus' Resurrection.

After His Resurrection... He first appeared to WOMEN. He empowered them to be the first message bearers of the HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION.

Jesus totally flipped religion on its head with that one...

After His Resurrection, He went and found Peter... the man who had denied Him three times, who had abandoned Him in His darkest hour and left Him to die alone...

And Jesus RESTORED PETER. He cooked him breakfast... He called him all over again... he didn't count his past against him.

After He Resurrected, HE GAVE THE DISCIPLES THE GREAT COMMISSION... GO INTO THE WORLD AND MAKE DISCIPLES... Don't sit in your attic all day... yes... wait until the Holy Spirit comes upon you... but when He does... that's your cue... THE MISSION IS ON.

Go change the world!

Sharing in a Resurrection like Christ's is talking about a NEW LIFE here and now in which you ARE SO TRANSFORMED IN YOUR HEART AND IN YOUR MIND that you no longer can sit back and watch while the world burns...

instead, you get up off of your butt and you go find needs and fill them... you go find practical ways to show Jesus to the world... you be the first to apologize and set the table for reconciliation.

Today is Pentecost Sunday... and for so many people Pentecost is all about a feeling that THEY FEEL... but the entire purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit is for you and I to have what we need to live a Resurrection kind of life in our community.

You were made in the image of God, and you were made to REFLECT AND SPREAD THE GLORY OF GOD to the entire world. And God has given you the tools to do it, but at some point you need to come to terms with the fact that your life IS FOR OTHERS.

The true church of Jesus Christ is not a bunch of people locked in a room waiting for Jesus to swoop us up into Heaven. The church is a BODY of people who are igniting a Revolution of HOPE in all the spaces that are broken.

IN ALL THE SONGS THAT SEEM SAD.

Jesus has given us the keys to the Kingdom. He has given us the ability to cultivate the world that He dreams of.

But once again you have to ask yourself that question... which Adam is more powerful? The first Adam, or the second?

Which BODY is more powerful? The Body of Sin, seeking to destroy the world...

or the BODY OF CHRIST... the only hope for the World.