

Title: The New Creation Series – Session 6: The Reign of Grace

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Introduction

In this teaching session, we will talk about:

- Why do Christians still sin after salvation, since they died to sin once and for all when they were born again
- What are the major negative effects of sinful actions
- How can Christians get rid of sinful actions and habits.

Why Do Christians Still Sin

- 1) Preconditioning – The mind and the physical body have been conditioned to sin since birth by the sinful nature inside, by the world environment, and by the devil.
- 2) Lack of teaching and understanding – Christians don't always have accurate understanding of the gospel, of what exactly to believe in and how to believe.
- 3) Lack of persistent faith – Christians don't walk consistently and with perseverance in the gospel once they understand it well.

Negative Effects of Sinful Actions

- 1) They make Christians feel and believe that they still have a sinful nature inside of them, which they cannot control most of the times.
- 2) They make Christians wonder if they were genuinely saved in the first place (they repeat the sinner's prayer, they baptize in water again, etc.) or if they lost their salvation on the way.
- 3) They kill Christians' boldness and confidence in destroying the works of darkness. It kills their faith.

How to Stop Sinning

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB)

⁸ For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

⁹ **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- Believers are not saved by their works of holiness. Although genuine salvation manifests itself through fruits of righteousness in the life of the believers, salvation is not worked out by focusing on doing good works (do's and don't's), and neither is maintained through good works.
- Believers walk in holiness and are sanctified in their minds and bodies in exactly the same way they were initially saved: by grace through faith.
- Grace is not just mercy or unmerited favor, but a power. Grace is the power of God and faith is the channel for that power to flow in believers' lives.
- Right believing will produce right living.

Romans 10:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ So **faith comes from hearing**, and hearing by the word of Christ.

- Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ, of who Christ is and who believers are in Christ.

Four subtle and unconscious lies from the mind of the believer in regards to sin:

1) ***"I cannot do it. I cannot change myself. It is too difficult for me."***

- I cannot stop from gossiping or from getting angry or from saying bad words, or from lusting other women in my mind, or from smoking, or from drinking, or from taking drugs, etc.
- The truth is that: **YOU CAN!!!**

Philippians 4:13 (NASB)

¹³ **I can do all things** through Him who strengthens me.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted **beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

- **The elephant syndrome example** - Mature elephants are very big and they can destroy trees, houses, etc. However, when they are born in captivity and are still small in size, they are bound by a tree with a rope. While they are young, they try with all their strength to escape and roam freely. After a while, they realize they cannot escape and give up. The thing is that when they grow up to maturity and become big, they can escape easily from that bondage. But because their mind was conditioned that they cannot, they would not even try.
- The secret is not to fight directly with the sinful actions and habits in the form of DOs and DONTs or with the devil, but fight to remain in faith, in rest, that GRACE will do its supernatural work effortlessly. The believer's fight is the fight of faith.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NASB)

¹² **Fight the good fight of faith**; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- Believers should not struggle to have faith in their own faith, or in their prayers, or in fasting, but only in the grace of Christ. All those (prayer and fasting) are just tools to refresh and strengthen their faith in the grace of Christ.
- It's not about how big is the Christian's faith, but about how big is the God in whom the Christian believes, how powerful is the grace that God has given believers as a gift.

Matthew 17:20 (NASB)

²⁰ And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith **the size of a mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

2) *"I will always have to fight this sin and sooner or later I will fail again."*

- No, it is not true. Remember the communism example. The sinful flesh is gone, the Christian is no longer a slave of sin.

3) *"If I live for God, I might miss some pleasures or things of value."*

- Believers might think that if they don't go to that party or if they don't conform to their friends, or if they don't smoke or take drugs, or if they keep themselves pure for sex intercourse with only one woman in marriage, they will be missing a lot.
- No, it is not true. God is way smarter than people and the devil. Jesus said in John 10:10 that He came so that believers would have life abundantly.

4) *"Everybody does it, so it's something normal."*

- No, for Christians normality is not defined by the world, or by friends, or by culture, but by the word of God.

Romans 6:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ For **sin shall not be master over you**, for you are not under law but under grace.

- Sin has lost its dominion, because after salvation believers are under grace.
- Being under the LAW:
 - THE MORAL LAW – People had to obey the moral Law of God in order to be righteous (gain righteousness) and then have access to blessings. To accomplish that, they had to learn the moral Law by heart and try to obey it.
 - THE MEANS TO OBEY – The means to obey the moral Law were pure human efforts, which were a complete failure because of the sin nature. The moral Law fueled the sin nature to produce sinful actions and death.
 - THE CEREMONIAL LAW – Whenever people broke the moral Law, they had the ceremonial Law of sacrifices and offerings to atone for their sins and so bring them back to a state of blessing.
- Being under GRACE:
 - Believers are already righteous and have access to blessings without doing anything because of Christ's righteousness who fulfilled the moral Law. Believers are called to walk in the holiness and in the righteousness of God, and do works of righteousness (or better said – fruits of righteousness), but not in order to be righteous. They don't have to learn the moral Law or try to obey it or be conscious of it.
 - The means to holiness is faith in the grace power of God that He will cause believers to walk in righteousness. Believers don't even need to be conscious of the moral Law and try to obey it with the new creation's ability inside of them. They only need to believe that Christ will live it through them. He will either change the processes of their mind, so that they don't have the desire to sin anymore, or His grace will help them avoid temptations.
 - Whenever believers still do sinful actions, the eternal sacrifice of Jesus (which replaced the repeated

animal sacrifices for sins and the ceremonial Law itself) removes them automatically.

Romans 3:20 (NASB)

²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

- The purpose of the LAW was:
 - To show people that they were sinful and in need of salvation
 - To show people that it was impossible for them to be righteous based on their own efforts and that they were unable to save themselves.
 - To provide people a temporary way to life and blessings until Christ would come. The people of Israel were blessed either by obeying the moral Law or by being atoned for through the ceremonial Law.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (NASB)

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity;

¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.

¹⁷ "But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them,

¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it.

¹⁹ "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,

²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Deuteronomy 28:2, 15 (NASB)

² "All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you **if you obey** the LORD your God.

¹⁵ "But it shall come about, **if you do not obey** the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

Romans 6:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though **you were slaves of sin**, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, **you became slaves of righteousness.**

- A slave to sin doesn't struggle to sin. Sin is something that comes naturally. When Christians were slaves to sin, they didn't even need faith to sin, but sin worked naturally through them. In the same way, when they become slaves of righteousness, they don't struggle to be righteous or to live righteous. As they just trust in God's grace, they will live naturally righteous.

Philippians 1:6 (NASB)

⁶ For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you **will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.

- God began a good work in believers at salvation, and He is the one perfecting it as well through the Holy Spirit and their faith.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NASB)

¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for **it is God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

- Believers work out (exercise) their salvation through the fight of faith and renewal of the mind.
- God is at work in them, giving them both the desire and the ability to do His will and pleasure.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, **but God was causing the growth.**

⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, **but God who causes the growth.**

- Believers plant and water the seeds of God by faith and renewal of the mind, but God is the one causing the actual growth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NASB)

¹³ For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also **performs its work in you who believe.**

Acts 20:32 (NASB)

³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which **is able to build you up and to give you** the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- The word of God which believers receive and meditate upon is the one doing the work in them who believe. It is the word of His grace.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NASB)

²³ Now may **the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- God is the one sanctifying the believers through their faith in His grace.

Romans 5:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness **will reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.

- How do Christians receive the abundance of grace? By perseverent faith in that grace and by confession with the mouth before and during the temptations. They also need to pray continuously in tongues in order to build themselves up in that faith.
- Examples of sinful actions: gossip, exaggeration and lying, anger, bad/curse words, drinking, smoking, drugs, sexual immorality (lust, pornography, masturbation, etc), depression, anxiety, rejection.

If you have any questions from the Bible or from this teaching session, or you have a personal problem (in finances, in marriage, with children, with addictions, or with a sickness in your body, etc.) for which you need prayer, please don't hesitate to contact us at contact@eduardserediuc.org or directly from the website from the Contact section -> General Inquiry form. My wife and I will take the time to answer you and pray for you. May God bless you!