

Romans 6:14

¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

A Truth That Sustains Sanctification

Main idea: as the believer seeks to reject sin and obey God, his obedience depends upon his new reality, and is facilitated by his embracing that new reality.

Introduction: How can we be expected to obey commands that we feel totally helpless to obey?

1. Conversion. "Not under law but under grace"
 - a. Judgment. Transition from being condemned by the law to being exonerated by grace.
 - b. Identity. Transition from living in ourselves (law: get life by doing) to living in Christ (grace: get life from Christ). As long as you are in yourself, you have access only to your own resources. The law is your only option. But what sort of option is that?
 - c. Power. Transition from living by the power of the law (which wasn't strong enough to overcome the weakness of our flesh) to living by the power of grace (which is to say living by the power of God Himself, cf. Rom 8:3)
 - d. So... what does this mean? It does not mean a new set of rules (or no rules at all), but a new reality that enables you to keep those rules.
 - i. It does not mean setting aside God's law, but actually loving that law from the heart for the first time, actually keeping that love from the heart for the first time.
 - ii. This means that you are a new, law-keeping man by the grace of Christ, rather than a natural, helpless, law-breaking, and therefore law-rejecting man that you used to be.
2. Confidence
 - a. A certainty for believers: sin cannot rule you, because it is no longer king. Christ is King in the realm of grace.
 - b. An indicative certainty (v14) that is necessary to imperative consistency (v12-13).
 - i. Just as we cannot separate the believing man from the doing man, so also we cannot expect to resist sin unless we have confidence against it from our doctrine.
 - ii. Saying "no" to sin and "yes" to God must be joined by saying "sin shall not rule you" to ourselves. We build confidence by reminding ourselves, "you are in Christ now; you have Christ as King now; and in Christ's kingdom you live under the power of a grace that must prevail."
3. Commitment
 - a. If sin is not king, do not serve it.
 - i. As we will consider more fully in v16, serving sin and treating it as master or king leads to confusion. By acting in contradiction to the reality that you know to be true, you erode your confidence in Christ and His grace.
 - ii. For the law-breaking believer, grace's ultimate victory has not become objectively uncertain, but the backsliding believer robs himself his own certainty about that which is true.
 - b. If you march under the banner of grace, then serve the King of the grace kingdom.
 - i. Don't ever use the idea of "grace" to excuse belittling God's law.
 - ii. Don't ever use the idea of "grace" to make breaking God's law more acceptable to you or more tolerable to you.
 - iii. If serving sin confuses the Christian about whether he is under grace, how much more confused is the one who thinks that grace has freed him from obedience to God's law!
 - c. Commitment to keep God's law by the grace of Christ is an important part of how God keeps our mind clear about to Whom we belong, so that we do not erode our own confidence.

Conclusion: dear believer, if you are Christ's, and He is yours by faith, then, you now live by His own life. You are strong by His own strength. You no longer hope in the law, which is to hope in yourself. You hope in grace, which is to hope in Him. This grace is how you will keep God's commandments. This grace is how sin will not rule over you.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 6, verse 14. These are God's words. For sin. Shall not have. Dominion over you. For you are not under law. But under grace, So far the reading of god's inspired.

And an errant wart. We rejoice to know that he adds his blessing especially now. To the preaching. And the hearing of it preached. Well, last week we heard and verses 12 and 13, do not let sin reign. In your mortal body, do not present your members as weapons or instruments of unrighteousness to sin, present yourselves to god, as being alive from the dead.

These first three real commands in the entire letter to the Romans. There was one before it immediately before it. Actually in verse 11 was the first imperative verb first command in the entire book. But it was a command about how we think It was a command about reckoning ourselves, and so here, he's given us these three commands and immediately he returns Uh, from the imperative from the command language, to the indicative, to the instruction, the teaching Language.

Sin shall not have dominion over you. For you are not under law, but under grace, and as understandable because we're commanded not to present, Now our instruments, our members rather as instruments of unrighteousness in we're commanded not to let sin reign over us. And yet we often feel that we are totally helpless before sin.

Or at least so completely outmatched that we must always fall into sin but that is not the case for the believer. And this is one of those points at which and they are many in the christian life where facts must overrule feelings. Where the lord gives us doctrine to believe so that we may cling to christ.

So that we may embrace a reality and the reality is more than just transactional which are we under. Are we under law or under grace the reality is a person to whom we cling. And in whom we have come out from under law and into being under grace, And so, the way to obey commands that we feel helpless to obey, Is to be governed, not by our feelings.

But by the facts of what our god has said. For there is nothing more reliable. It is absolutely certain and it will never change. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, which is to say if the Holy Spirit whom he poured out has put you into Christ. Then you are not under law.

But under Grace. Now, what does this mean? What are we to do with these facts about the? The first thing is we need to believe the fact of conversion. We need to believe the fact of conversion. And then believing the fact of conversion. We need to have confidence that comes from The Truth, the reality of our conversion.

And this truth of our conversion that we are to have confidence in and confidence from, it must produce commitment. Which actually reinforces that confidence. And so those are the three words by which we've organized. Are consideration of this verse this evening. Conversion. Confidence. And commitment. Sin shall not have dominion over you.

Why? Well, because you have been converted. For you are not under law, but under grace This is not talking about something that has Happened. Historically, not that. There was a law epic. A law. Period of time. And then Jesus has come and now is the grace period of time because that would make no sense of the you.

There are many people, Over whom sin does have dominion. Still. Now after Jesus has come. So when it says you are not under law but under grace, it is not talking about a season in the history of the world to which, which belong to the law. And now we're in the season of the history of the world, which belongs to grace.

As if the law has somehow been wiped out by the coming of Jesus, something he himself. Spoke very strongly that he had not come to do and would not and up doing. So what does it mean? Then who are the you of whom sin does not have dominion? Well, it does those who are in Christ.

And so when it talks about you are not under law. But under grace it's describing something that has happened that conversion. It is describing something that has happened in the transition from being in oneself and into Christ. Is a transition concerning our judgment. It is a or the judgment concerning us as a transition with respect to the judgment concerning us.

It is a transition with respect to our identity and it is a transition with respect to the power under which we operate First, it's a transition concerning. The judgment concerning us. When we believe in Jesus Christ. It is counted for us for righteousness. You remember how he has been Ever since the end of chapter 3, when he described the The righteousness that comes by faith.

He began referring us back to the old testament. Referred us back. To Psalm 32 and how it's not at all by works that we are made righteous before. God referred us back to Genesis 15 and verse 6 where Abraham was not by it was not by works. That Abraham was counted righteous before God, but it was through faith.

It was a part from works apart from what he did. And so when you come to believe in Jesus Christ, you go from being under the sentence of death, that the law pronounces. To being exonerated declared righteous before God. You're no longer guilty. And as one, who is righteous, you are no longer under the sentence.

Uh, the no longer under the sentence to which, which belonged to the guiltiness of your former condition. So this is one way in which we are no longer under law, but under grace, the law can no longer say of us guilty, the law can no longer say of us condemned.

Rather grace says, United. To the one who has wiped out all guilt. United to the righteous one. Righteous in the union with him. And therefore, worthy in him with his worthiness with Christ's worthiness of all blessing forever. Endeavor and surely, one of the greatest parts of those blessings is sin.

Will not rule. Over you. It has no right to you. Because Christ has delivered you from its judgment. So there's a transition with respect to the judgment concerning us. There's also a transition with respect to our identity When we come to believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ, when we are joined to Christ, we are brought out of the last Adam or the first sorry we were brought out of the first Adam.

We were brought out of ourselves and into the Lord. Jesus Christ. This is very important. Because when we are in ourselves, our only hope before God is that we may get life by doing. That's how life from the law or salvation from the law would work. But we are unable to do.

That is why if you are alien to Christ, if you are alien to the truth of Christ, if you are, if you are a stranger To the Gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ. You are not just without God in this world. You are without hope in this world. Because you are unable to do the works of the law.

In order to live by then. But when you come out of being in yourself to being in Christ, there is a new way that you may have life. There is a new way that you may have salvation because it is in Christ. Christ has done. What is required Christ?

Has a tone for all of the sin that we have that we have committed. So we are no longer under the law principle by which we might be able to get life and of course by which we are completely unable to get life or salvation. But now we have come under out from under the law principle to be under the grace principle, we may have life and salvation because we have them not by law.

But by grace, for all of the wonderful things that the law could do. The one thing, it couldn't do. Give us life. God has done. By his grace. As long as you are in yourself, you have access only to your own resources and the law is your only option, but conversion brings a transition with respect to our identity.

We are not in ourselves. If we believe in Jesus Christ, we are in Him. Therefore, we are no longer unable to keep the law but now that we are under grace, We are able to overthrow sin. And become law, keepers from the heart. For the first time. In our life, which brings us then?

Brings us to the third. The third aspect of this transition, a transition with respect to the power. By which we operate. God has done. We just quoted from Romans eight, what the law couldn't do. Why? Because it was weakened by our flesh. Our flesh, our sinfulness is so great.

That the law could not make us better. That God's good law. God's word. That is full of light. And that is useful for so many things. And yet it is only by the Gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ, that his word brings us into Christ where God has done.

What the law couldn't do. Weakened by our flesh weakened by our sin. And so we we must live by the power of grace. Which is to say, lived by the power. Of God himself. What does this mean? It means that regardless of what you may have heard from others or what you may have been tempted to think yourself.

The phrase not under law, but under grace does not mean a new set of rules. And it certainly does not mean no rules at all. What it means is a new reality. In which you are able in union with Christ in which you are able for the first time from the heart.

To keep God's rules out of love to him because there is now life in you by the grace of Jesus Christ, life that could not come. When you were under the law life that you have under grace to love the law to say, with the apostle and one chapter's time.

I don't like in the law of God, in my inner being not to look at the commandments of God's moral law and set them aside and say I'm not under law. But under grace Even Satan knows the Bible and that's a horrible twisting of Scripture. It makes you a child of the devil.

Not a child of God. To say that about God's commandments is moral law, but to say all the commandment is holy, And the commandment is righteous. And, The commandment is good. Because God having through faith in Jesus Christ, brought me in union to himself in union with his son in union with him.

I am able to love and keep this law, which has become not my enemy, not my accuser, not my condemner, but my helper To express the life and the love. That has come from christ and filled My heart. Not under law, but under grace, Does not mean setting aside, god's law, but actually loving it.

And keeping it. From the heart, for the first time. It means. That having been brought to faith by the work of the spirit, who has by, whom you have now, been baptized into jesus. And that eternal and spiritual and permanent and powerful way. It means that you are in you.

Law. Keeping man. By the grace of christ. Not the old natural. Helpless. Law breaking. Law rejecting, man. That you used to be. And so there's a marvelous truth about our conversion here. And this truth should give us confidence. When we hear do not present, your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin.

When you hear do not let sin rain in your mortal body and you say, but i feel helpless. You are to refer yourself to the truth of verse 14. The truth that you have been converted that a great transition has taken place. And say, this is a certainty for believers sin.

Cannot rule over me because it is no longer king. I am no longer who i was. Before the spirit made me alive and brought me to faith and brought me into jesus christ into union with him through faith. This is one of the reasons why it is so important to get the doctrine of regeneration preceding faith.

The doctrine of true conversion, correct? Because if the arminians and the Wesleyans are, right. And there is this prevenient grace. That is given to all And we are not made new people in union with jesus christ. Then you do not have this certainty. That sin will not have dominion over you.

And indeed the very same ones. Don't they tell you? That you could lose a salvation. That came. From the pouring out of the holy spirit. From union with god, the sun, the lord jesus christ. That brought with it and adoption in which you were made and adopted son of god.

The father How could it ever be undone? And yet, if you and i do not believe, The truth here before us, in roman six, verse 14, if you do not believe that sin cannot have dominion over, it can no longer be king of someone who is a believer in jesus christ.

The new open yourself up to all sorts. Of anxieties and worries. But this truth was given that we might have confidence. Christ is king in the realm of grace christ, is king for those who have been brought out from being in themselves and under the law to be being in christ.

And under grace christ, is their king. And he does not give up his throne. Sin will not rule over me. However, many times i have offered my, any aspect of who i am as a weapon or an instrument unto sin. It cannot have me if i am christ's, and christ is mine, then sin cannot rule over me.

And so, if we are to consistently obey the imperative In verses 12 and 13 from last week, we need to draw confidence certainty. From the indicative with which the apostle immediately follows In verse 14. Now we have been saying, we have been arguing that the believer loves the law of god.

The believer must keep the law of god that it is still the rule for our life that it is how we define good and evil. That we should even call the commandment itself. A good, a delightful and beneficial thing. But do pay attention. To the proportion. Of theological truth so far.

To the rate, the ratio of theological truth. So far to commandments and how quickly the apostle follows the commandments again with a truth that we need to rest upon. That's because that's the way it operates in your christian life. Dear believer. That as you love the lord and as you want to obey him and as you want to serve him and as you want to say no to sin as you want to kill remaining sin, and put it to death, and grow in the grace by the grace of the lord jesus christ and grow by the knowledge of the lord jesus christ.

It is a doctrinal exercise through and through believing truths about the lord, jesus truths by which you embrace, not just ideas. But that point you to him himself, So, you cling to your king and say, I am my beloveds and my beloved is mine, and if anyone has been baptized into christ, jesus sin cannot rule over him because he is not under law anymore.

He has under grace, he has jesus, he has life, he has power. He can obey God's law. And so there is a life of the mind and a life of the heart. That the apostle is not only teaching us, but modeling us leading a modeling for us. Leading us into That as soon as we are faced with the commandments, We immediately rest again.

Upon this glorious truth. Sin shall not have dominion over you. Just, as you cannot separate. The believing man from the doing man. You cannot expect to resist sin. Unless you are drawing confidence against sin. From theological truth from this theological tree. Let me repeat that. Just as we cannot separate the believing man from the doing man.

Remember what james says about that? The one who says You have works. I have faith. As if. You know, we have different spiritual gifts and you're like, well, obedience isn't my spiritual gift? And that's under rubbish. Because the only ones who actually do any good, any obedience, any service, any law of unto God from the heart, are those who believe?

And all of those who believe love God, from the heart, and start to do that, which is good. They start to obey the commandments of God. So you cannot separate the believing man from the doing, man. They're the same man. Either both are found or none are found. Well, the same is true.

For the sin resisting man. And the truth believing man. You will not be able. To give sin. The great know that says, you are not my king and i will not offer any part of who i am, as a weapon for you in your war. I belong to another king.

And every part of who i am is a weapon as an instrument that is dedicated to king jesus to be exercised and righteous, you will not be able to do that. Unless you are, depending upon these wonderful gospel truths of true conversion. I am no longer under law. No longer in myself but now i am under grace because i am in christ.

And the consequence of that true conversion sin cannot rule over me. It is no longer making. And so saying no to sin and yes, to god must be joined by saying to ourselves. Sin shall not rule over you. So sin presents itself. And you say no and you turn immediately to god, you present yourself to him.

Even better. You consciously intentionally consistently with thinking about presenting yourself to him. So that sin tries to give you a command you this Leave me alone. I'm obeying my king. You have no authority here. But then there's also addressing yourself. Saying sin shall not rule over you. We build confidence for the battle against remaining sin by reminding ourselves.

You are in christ now. Christ is your king now, sin cannot be your king in christ's kingdom. Your king has given you a power that you did not have. When you were outside of christ, you did not have when you were under the law, you now have the power of grace.

It is the right of every citizen of the kingdom of the lord, jesus. To have the power and life of the lord jesus in him. For the service of his king. And so we have that confidence. I'm going to draw that confidence in the truth. About our conversion. And yet this confidence.

There's something that we ourselves can so quickly destroy. And so, confidence needs to be married to commitment. If sin is not king, do not serve it. This seems obvious but verse 16 is there. Than even more to the point, many of you all of you. Who have loved and desired to serve christ, have found yourself, still sinning.

So, we need to remind ourselves. Then we need to make the not just have confidence against sin but commit ourselves. Against sin. Because if we continue to present ourselves to sin, it will be just like it was our master We'll hear about that more in verse 16, but think about the confusion.

That that would lead a believer into that that has led you into Because every time you or i act in contradiction to the reality that verse 14, asserts as true and that we know is true from verse 14. Every time we act in contradiction to it, we erode our confidence in christ and his grace Because we add to our experience.

A moment post-conversion where it is experientially. Just as of sin was our master all over again.

For the law breaking believer. Grace's, ultimate victory. Has not become objectively uncertain. If you are a believer and you are breaking god's law, it is still true that sin will not rule over you. But the believer who breaks god's law freely? Unrepentantly. Back slides. Becomes like david. Who at one point hiding in the cave?

And Saul comes in and he cuts the corner off of Saul's robe and with the scripture says his heart smote him. But a believer in his backsliding can come to a place. Where it's the time of year, where kings go out to war and they lead their people. It doesn't go out.

He stays home. And it's the middle of the afternoon and he's not about The business. Of serving the people over whom god has set. Set them over whom god has set him for their good. But he's getting up from a nap. And his heart doesn't smite him. He goes out.

To his balcony. And he sees The form of a woman. And he gazes upon her in his heart. Doesn't smite him. He tells his servants find out who she is and bring her for dinner, and they say, She's another man's wife. And his heart doesn't smite him.

The believer. Who is backsliding? Not only robs himself of his own certainty about that, which is true that sin shall not rule over you. But he brings himself into this repeated obedience towards sin under which he cannot know that he is a believer. Because he is not having these repentings against sin and embracing's of christ and fresh renewal of the joy of his salvation and love for god from a from a newly clean, heart and offering the sacrifices that have come and in response to God's restoring his experience of, of the grace and forgiveness of god.

And if we don't marry commitment to our confidence. Then we will read the truth of verse 14. In the contrapositive direction. Sin is ruling over me. So, i must not be under grace. I must be under the law.

You see verse 14 is not there to make you feel better about your sinning. If you're a christian, If you're a backsliding christian, It's there to shock you. So that you will return. To the one who has redeemed, you And you will put a put that sin behind you.

And they hold freshly of the lord jesus christ. For his forgiveness for his righteousness. And for his life in you, That marching and living under the banner of grace in which you are able to tell sin. No. And you don't enjoy only victory, but you do enjoy victory. And the more you tell it, no and the more you enjoy The fruit of that commitment that he has produced in you.

The more you are able to draw confidence. From this truth. Because the theological fact is joined to experiential reality.

So if sin is not king, do not serve it. And if you march under the banner of grace, Then serve the king of the grace kingdom, whose subject, you are. Don't ever use the idea of grace to excuse belittling god's law. Don't ever use the idea of grace to make breaking god's law, more acceptable to you or more tolerable to you.

Think about it, we were just a moment ago thinking about how serving sin confuses the christian about whether, or not he is under grace Well, how much more confused will? The christian be who thinks that grace has freed him from obedience to God's law. If he is converted. Then his experience is not going to match at all the reality, in god's word.

Then you'll end up living this this extended horrible time in this world of telling himself. Yeah, i'm no better than an unbeliever and then never really doing any better than i was. But it's okay because we're forgiven because there's grace and we don't have to obey God's law anymore.

And the falsehood. Under which he tries to to to comfort himself will not give him either the comfort of the freedom of forgiveness from his sin or the confidence of the power of grace to resist and kill his sin.

Commitment to keeping god's law by the grace of christ. Is an important? Yes, a necessary part. Of how god keeps our mind, clear. About the fact that we belong to him. The fact that i genuine transition has taken place a genuine change. From being the old man in ourselves.

To being a new creature. In christ, jesus. And that commitment, To exercise. Our allegiance to king jesus. Is necessary in order that you don't erode your own confidence. In the battle against in your believer. If you are, christ's And he is yours by faith. Then you now live not by your life but by hists.

By grace, you have been saved through faith. That is no longer you who live but christ who lives in you. The life that you now live. You live by faith in christ jesus. Who loved you? And gave himself for you. And gave himself to you. And so now you are strong by his own strength.

You no longer hope in the law. Which would just be to hope in yourself and has no place. With the believer. But you hope in grace, which is to say, You hope in him. And he and his grace is, how you will keep god's commitments. He and his grace.

Are how sin will not have dominion? It will not rule. Over you. Amen.