

Is Grace a License to Sin?

For certain men whose condemnation was written about {4 Or <men who were marked out for condemnation>} long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

(Jude 1:4 – NIV)

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; {13 Or <the flesh>; also in verses 16, 17, 19 and 24} rather, serve one another in love.

(Gal. 5:13)

Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

(1Pet. 2:16)

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. (1 John 3:9)

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. (1 John 5:18)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. (1 John 1:5, 6)

If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left. (Heb. 10:26)

The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (Rom. 5:20-6:2)

Seven Keys for the “Productive” Christian

Key #1 – **If we are “dead to sin”**

- We don't seek it (see above, and Romans 13:8-10; Moses: Heb. 11:25)
- We don't hide, justify, rationalize, or condone it (2 Cor. 4:2; 1 John 1:8; The goal: 1 John 1:5)

Key #2 – **We feed what we focus upon** (Three dimensional - Romans 7; Phil. 4:8, Prov. 3:7)

Key #3 – **Balance: Conscientiousness without fear** (1 John 1:8 / 1 John 4:18)

Key #4 – **Have a biblical definition of sin:**

- Transgression of the law, lawlessness (1 John 3:4)
- Anything that does harm to God's children (Romans 13:8-10)
- Violation of conscience (Romans 14:14, 23; James 4:17)

Key #5 – **Use God's list, not man's (God's is consistent!)**

- Pharisees - Don't major in the minors!
- Jerusalem council (Acts 15, vs. 19!)
- Use Jesus' life as your “plumb line”

Key #6 – **Beware of Double Standards!**

- Major vs. minor surgery
- Watch for telephone poles! (Matt. 7:1-5)

Key #7 – Real grace is productive: *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them-- yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. (1Cor. 15:10)*