

“The Gospel Compels Us to Christ-like Living”
“Implications of the Gospel” — Part 1
Romans 6:1-4

“We believe that God’s justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor, and justice for the oppressed.”

1. The Christian message has been misunderstood in two equally dangerous directions.

- We are made right with God by what we do.
- Because of salvation, it doesn’t matter how we live.

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:1-4

2. Through the gospel we understand God’s justifying grace and His sanctifying purpose.

- We are declared justified by God’s grace alone through faith alone.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

Romans 8:1

- God who justifies us also works to conform us to the image of Christ.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

- Justification and sanctification must never be confused or separated.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:11-14

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

The message of the gospel: this masterpiece of the human person, created to glorify God... but defaced by the ravages of sin, can be restored to a glory beyond its original condition. This is God's sanctifying purpose, and by His gracious power we are to grow in godliness and so display the glory of God.

Evangelical Convictions
(pages 189 and 190)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Application: The faith that saves is the faith that bears the fruit of the indwelling Spirit of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25