

## Overview

One of the primary ways we measure things is by the use of scales. Different scales are used in a variety of ways. There are some scales in the kitchen used to make sure the accurate amount of an ingredient is being used. A lot of homes have scales in the bathrooms to keep track of body weight. Older style scales worked by keeping things in balance. Here is a picture of that type of scale:



The Apostle Paul addresses a very difficult issue in Romans 6 dealing with grace and sin. He ends Romans 5 by stating: “But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” This is basically saying that the more sin that is on one side of the scale the more grace it will take to balance it out. This argument leads to someone thinking that if grace is a good thing then why not sin more so that God’s grace may be shown more. Knowing that some Christians might use this as a license to live however they want; Paul uses Roman 6 to further explain this statement. Throughout Romans 6:1-14 Paul uses words like “died to sin,” “baptized into death,” “no longer slaves to sin,” and “sin should no longer be your master.” He goes to great lengths to show a complete separation from sin in someone’s life. A Christian’s position in Christ and their current condition in life can sometimes be confusing to explain. All believers are completely justified before God and have been saved by His grace. This new identity does not mean that there isn’t work to be done. This is the difference between being justified and sanctified (growing in Christ). We live in a fallen world and there will still be a struggle with sin. The temptations in life do not just go away because you have accepted Christ. How you respond to those temptations is what changes. In your pre-Christ life you followed your own desires giving no regard to what God’s will was for your life. After accepting Christ there needs to be a change in attitude (Romans 12:1-2). Being under grace shouldn’t in any way diminish your desire to live a life pleasing to God; in fact grace should increase your desire to live a godly life. This is what the Apostle Paul clarifies in Romans 6:1-14.

## Bible Study: Romans 6:1-14

1. Salvation is a free gift from God. This is a result of what Christ has done on the cross, not by anything you have done to earn it. It is not earned by works, but received by faith. Romans 6:1-14 explains a believer’s position before God versus a believer’s current situation of living in a fallen world. Discuss as a group the difference between a believer’s position before God versus a believer’s current situation of living in a world full of temptations.
2. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. Explain the process of putting off the old self and putting on the new self.
3. Read Romans 6:6. How can Christians be dead to sin, but still have a daily struggle with sin?
4. Paul uses several word pictures to describe the relationship between a Christian and sin. He uses: death, baptism, slave, and master. **In your own words** how would you describe the relationship between a Christian and sin?
5. Children don’t live any way they want to because they know their parents will forgive them. This is not how a relationship works, nor is it a reflection of love. Read Romans 6:11-14. In what ways does receiving God’s forgiveness and grace help a believer live a godly life?

6. In Romans 6:1-10 Paul is explaining what God has done for all believers. In Romans 6:11-14 Paul is explaining what a believer's response should be to what God has done. How would you explain this passage to a new believer who may not necessarily feel a great victory over sin in their life?
7. Victory over sin has been won. Battles with sin still continue. How would you encourage someone who is constantly losing the battle with sin? They may start to not feel good enough to receive God's grace. In what ways can you daily remind yourself of your victory over sin?