

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Passage: Romans 6:1-5

Memory Passage: Romans 6:12

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:1-5.** Why does Paul begin chapter 6 with the question found in 6:1? What verse do you think inspired him to ask this question? Every time the word “sin” appears as a noun in this chapter it is singular. What does Paul mean when he says “continue in sin?”
- (b) What misunderstanding would a person have for thinking that sinning more would be a good thing because grace would then abound all the more? What is Paul’s answer to this type of thinking? Are there any other kinds of thinking that Paul might be countering with this question, and if so, what might they be?
- (c) What is your attitude toward sin? Have you ever had thoughts similar to, “Well I know I shouldn’t commit that sin, but after all, God will forgive it?” Is your heart broken when you consider your own sin, sin for which Christ died? Meditate on James 4:7-10 and write down ways in which you can reorient yourself to a proper attitude toward your sin.
- (d) *Family: Read Rom. 6:1-5.* Ask your family, “What is sin?” Write the definitions they give on your white board, and then spend some time combining and strengthening them to come to a concise definition of sin (Any violation of or lack of conformity to God’s law). Then reread Romans 6:1 and ask, “Why would Paul ask this question” (because of the statement given in 5:20: “where sin increased grace abounded all the more”)? Then discuss why Paul would need to overcome this objection. Explain that in chapter 6 we will learn what our justification has to do with overcoming sin in our lives and being sanctified (i.e. being conformed to the image & likeness of Jesus).

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 6:1-5.** What does Paul mean by the phrase “died to sin?” To whom does the “we” refer in v. 2? Why does Paul think it impossible to still live in sin once one has died to it?
- (b) Why do you think Paul assumes that his hearers already know this (“do you not know?”)? To what does the word “baptized” refer both times it is used in v. 3? Is it water baptism? Spiritual baptism? Something else? Does it refer to the same thing in both uses, or different things? How do you know?
- (c) What is the connection between believers being dead to sin and being baptized into Christ’s death? Why is this concept important to you? What does it teach you about your relationship to sin if you are a professing believer? Does your life reflect this relationship to sin, or does your life reflect a different relationship to sin?
- (d) *Family: Read Rom. 6:1-5.* Spend this day teaching your family Question 38 of the Baptist Catechism. This catechism was written by Benjamin Keach and William Collins circa 1693, and was revised and used by churches both in Europe (Charles Spurgeon used and defended it at the Metropolitan Tabernacle) and in the churches of the early United States, and it is still widely used today. “Q. What is Sanctification? A. Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace (2 Thess 2:13), whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph 4:23, 24), and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness (Rom 6:4, 6).” Have your family memorize the question & the answer, and lead them through the 3 passages of Scripture upon which the answer is based.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 6:1-5.** How were believers, “buried with (Christ) by baptism into death?” Is this a figurative or literal statement (i.e. do believers *actually* die with Christ, or is this figurative)? On what do you base your answer? How does the phrase “by baptism” function in this act (remember to keep this verse in the context in which it is given, and look at what you have already studied in chapter 6 as well as this verse)?
- (b) What does the phrase, “in order that” tell you about what is to follow? What is compared (“just as . . . we too”) in 6:4b? To what does “the glory of the Father” refer in this context?
- (c) In order to see the connection between the thoughts in vs. 1-5, fill in the blanks of the following summary statement: Believers are \_\_\_\_\_ to sin so we should not continue to \_\_\_\_\_ under its power because when we were \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ with Him so that just as Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ we will be \_\_\_\_\_ with him and now \_\_\_\_\_ in newness of \_\_\_\_\_.
- (d) *Family: Read Romans 6:1-5.* Review Question 38 from the Baptist Catechism that you learned last night. Ask, “What kind of baptism is Paul talking about in these verses?” Your family may have never thought about baptism in any other way but water baptism, so help them to understand that Paul is using the term in these verses to refer to our conversion and union with Christ. That when we were converted (saved) we were united with Christ in His death, which means we died with Him.

Now ask, “What is being compared in v. 4?” and point out the “just as . . . we too” phrasing to help them see the comparison between Christ’s resurrection and our new life as believers. And that since we died with Him we will also be resurrected with Him on the last day. Help them to see the central point: because those of us in Christ (as opposed to those in Adam) have died with Christ, are dead to sin’s power, and will participate in the resurrection when Christ returns, we have the ability to walk (live) in newness of life right now!

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 5:12-6:11.** Take notice of each time you see the concept of death (dead, death, died, etc.). Write down what you learn about death, the progression of Paul’s thought, the differences in the concept of death for those who are in Adam and those who are in Christ, and the relationship of those 2 groups of people to sin and death.

(b) *Family:* **Read Rom. 6:1-5.** Help your family see the connection between 6:1-5 by making copies of the summary statement found in Day 3 (c) above and letting them look through the passage to find the answers. The statement with the filled-in blanks should read: “Believers are *dead* to sin so we should not continue to *live* under its power because when we were *converted/saved* we *died* with Him so that just as Christ was *raised* from the *dead* we will be *raised* with him and now *walk* in newness of *life*.” Lead them through a discussion of each of these points to review what you have learned and teach what is new. Remind them that even though our resurrection is future (see v. 5, “we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his”) the benefits of that future resurrection are experienced in our daily “walk in newness of life.”

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 6:1-5.** Verse 5 explains v. 4b, so notice the tenses in v. 5 (have been united & shall certainly be united) and explain how being united with a resurrection like Christ’s in the future accomplishes for us the ability to walk in newness of life today.

(b) What exactly does it mean to “walk in newness of life?” How does it come about? What is the relationship between our dying to sin and this newness of life?

(c) Write down at least 4 examples/applications of how a believer walks in newness of life. Think of your own life, and how this statement is true about you. Also explain how each of these examples is possible, keeping in mind what we have learned in Romans 6:1-5.

(d) *Family:* Lead your family through (b) & (c) above. As you close, quote together from memory question 38 from the Baptist Catechism and its answer. We will be learning about sanctification and how to pursue it throughout our study of Romans 6.

**DATE: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

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*Newness of Life*