

MOOREBANK HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Romans 6:1-14 – Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Read Romans 5:20-6:14

1. What would it look like to still live in sin? (verse 1) Is it possible for a Christian to “continue in sin” (ESV) or “go on sinning” (NIV)? Why or why not?
2. What do you think it means to have “died to sin”? (verse 2) Does it feel like sin is completely dead and gone from your life? Why is this?
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in *The Cost of Discipleship* (1937), makes a distinction between ‘cheap grace’ and ‘costly grace’.
“Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline. Communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ.”
Cheap grace, Bonhoeffer says, is to hear the gospel preached as: “Of course you have sinned, but now everything is forgiven, so you can stay as you are and enjoy the consolations of forgiveness.”
 - What is wrong with such a ‘gospel’?
In contrast: “Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. It is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: ‘My yoke is easy and my burden is light.’”
 - Which kind of grace is Paul speaking about here? How do you reach that conclusion?
 - What is so appealing about ‘cheap grace’? How can we identify it in ourselves or in the church?
4. What do you think it means to be “baptised into Christ Jesus”? (verse 3)
5. How does looking back to the process of becoming a Christian, symbolised by baptism, help us to understand what it means to have died to sin?
6. We are to “walk in newness of life” (verse 4 ESV). What are some of the characteristics of this new kind of life? How might we identify someone living this kind of life?
For personal reflection: Are there areas of your life that are in need of renewal? What would it take it achieve it?
7. What are some of the ‘parts’ of ourselves (verse 13) that Christians today may have difficulty handing over to God? Why?
For personal reflection: Are there aspects of your life that you are holding back from God? What would it take to “offer every part of yourself to God”? Reflect on Matthew 5:29-30.