**DISCUSSION STARTER:**



## Discipleship Groups

Sermon Dates:

**May 20 & 21, 2023**

**Butch Gastfield**

Scripture Text

***Romans 6: 1-14***

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Do you find it easier to extend grace to another person or to receive it from someone? Why do think that is?

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

Butch began his sermon with a discussion of the relationship between grace and law and compared the law with the role of a prosecuting attorney.

*Read Romans 5:18-21*

* As the case for our lawbreaking is presented, how does that bring grace into prominence?
* What are the two polar opposites vs. 20-21 identified as the condition of law and grace?

Read *Galatians 3:21-27*

* Is life available through the law?
* If not, what is its purpose as described in *vs.24 & 25*?
* What does the comparison of imprisonment reveal about the law’s ability and/or our condition under it?

**REFLECTION/DISCUSSION**

* In any discussion of law, we are naturally drawn to the notion of rules—specific statements that govern behavior. Do you find that you more easily identify prohibitions—the “Do Nots”—or the positive commands—the “Do This” items? Given the abundance of grace we have in Jesus, how do you think these two should align?

***Sermon Point 1: In Baptism We Die***

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSSION**

*Read Romans 6:3-8*

Most of us have come to understand the symbolism of baptism—the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. But in this message, Butch stressed the fact that with our baptism, we can point to a particular time in our history where we were spiritually united with Christ through our obedient response to the Gospel.

* How does the assurance of our position in Christ impact our view of the sins and failures that we continue to see in our life?



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* How should our awareness of the death of our old self work to draw us towards Christ and away from the life-pattern of our dead being.

In his letter to the Colossian church, Paul adds another dimension to the reality of our death in Christ.

*Read Colossians 2:11-14*

* According to vs. 13 & 14 what is the result of our baptismal burial?
* What does this passage tell us about any effort to live by law?

***Sermon Point 2: In Baptism We Receive New Life***

**QUESTIONS/REFLECTION:**

*Read Romans 6:9-14* and *Titus 3:5*

* Are there still areas of your life where you allow the old dead person to drive your desires and/or behaviors?
* On the other hand, can you recognize areas in your walk with Jesus where you see growth in the spiritual life you possess?
* What all does the word “dominion” (*vs. 14*) bring to your mind?
* What does it mean and how do we go about “presenting” our “members” to God so that they become instruments of righteousness?

*Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-18*

* Is there any significant difference between a “reformed” or “changed’ individual and a “new creation”?
* If there is, what are the implications for that creature?

**DISCUSSION:**

*Read Colossians 3:1-2; 12-17*

* What are some **concrete** ways—actions you can take—to “seek the things that are above” and “set your mind” on those?
* Notice that *vs.12* says we are to “put on” certain things that reflect our new self. Take the time with your group to translate some of the broad concepts listed in *vs 12-17* into some more **specific** actions.