

## SMALL GROUP LESSON

### DYING TO LIVE WITH CHRIST

#### ROMANS 5:18-6:14 and 2 CORINTHIANS 5:4-21

MARCH 26, 2017

Some people thought that Paul's understanding of God's grace was nothing more than a license to keep on living a sinful way of life. They could keep on doing the same kinds of mean and ugly things they were doing before they became Christians, and simply claim that God's grace would cover it all. In fact, the more they sinned, the greater would be God's gracious response to those sins. Paul needed to correct that misunderstanding, and he did so in a very compelling way. So let's take a look at what he had to say as we answer these questions and discover how his response can help us to live our lives as Christians more effectively.

1. What happens to a person when that individual places his/her faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Romans 6:6-7.
2. When a person becomes a Christian, to whom is that individual united and how is that union described in Romans 6:6-5?
3. In the pastor's sermon he talks about "justification" and "sanctification." What do these two words mean and how should they be applied to our lives as Christians?
4. How can we as God's people resist the temptation to fall back into the old sinful actions, attitudes, and habits that were a part of our lives before we became Christians? Paul addresses this subject in Romans 6:11-14, and provides us with a clue as to how we can overcome these temptations in verse 11. What do you think Paul is instructing us to do in this verse?
5. How do these three words—penalty, power, and presence—describe the relationship of sin to the lives of God's people with regards to their past, their present, and their future?
6. What are some things that the pastor suggests we can do to properly appreciate and appropriate God's grace and to reduce the influence of sinfulness in our lives as Christians?