

## Reigning Grace

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:12 (New Living Translation)

So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:21 (New Living Translation)

I remember processing Roman 5-8 with God. Who made Adam mankind's representative? Who made Adam my representative? The guy blew it big-time. I didn't choose Adam.

'Who would you have chosen? What do you think the outcome would have been when the testing came?'

Silence.

It doesn't matter who I chose, the outcome would be the same. All have sinned. Sin reigns, and with it, comes death.

Every new Christian faces this universal struggle between grace and sin as he/she transition from living a life of sin to living by grace.

Reigning grace is also dynamic grace. I am drawn by the word 'much more' (verse 9, 10, 15, 17).

He is a God of the 'much more'.

# Reigning Grace

## WARMING UP

1. Queen Elizabeth II has been reigning for 61 years. In what way, if any, has her rule affected how you live?
2. Share with the group your understanding of the word 'reign'.

## INTO THE PASSAGES

### Read Romans 5:12-14 Death in Adam

3. When did sin first come into man? What kind of control sin has over man?
4. What will be the eventual outcome of sin? What are the present outcomes of sin?

### Read Romans 5:15-21 Life in Christ

5. What is being contrasted in these passages?
6. The divine exchange. What kind of life are we exchanging?

### Read Roman 6 - Appreciating the grace of God - Someone died

7. We won't die but Someone did. Who paid for this life of reigning grace (Rom 3:25)?
8. Living this life of grace require death (Rom 6:6). What type of death is this?
9. In verses 12 and 13 of chapter 6, what are the 2 'Do not' that we are exhorted to keep?

## MOVING FORWARD

We had two experiences.

We experienced the reign of sin when sin is on the throne and what we did were acts of the sinful nature. Left on our own, we would have died in sin.

Our experience of the love and mercies of God meant grace of God is on the throne.

Grace of God working in our lives meant we replaced acts of the sinful nature with acts of righteousness.

Give thanks for the marvellous grace of God.

## LIFE TOGETHER

Continuing in the life of reigning grace is meant to be lived in a community of grace.

Our brothers and sisters help us focus on the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

A rebuke in love jolts us out of our complacency.

Studying the Truth of God together replaced wrong thinking.

## Reigning Grace

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### Read Romans 5:12-14 Death in Adam

3. When did sin first come into man? What kind of control sin has over man?

Sin entered the world when Adam sinned (v12). Sin (death) reigned (verse 14, 17, 21). Reign definition. verb. rule - prevail - dominate - govern - predominate. Verse 6 of NLT says we were utterly helpless.

4. What will be the eventual outcome of sin? What are the present outcomes of sin?

The eventual outcome for all is physical death (Gen 3:19). Presently, those who do not know Jesus is spiritually dead. Those who know Jesus but struggling with sin is learning the hold of sin, the power of the Holy Spirit, and growing in faith. The mature Christian are less effected by sin, more in tune with the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit are more evident in their lives and they are intentional in how they live their lives.

#### Read Romans 5:15-21 Life in Christ

5. What is being contrasted in these passages?

The old and the new life. The old life (unbeliever) is characterized by sin leading to death. The new life (believer) is characterized by the grace of God, effected in believing that Jesus died for him.

6. The divine exchange. What kind of life are we exchanging?

Eternal life (verse 21) and life characterized by righteousness (verse 17).

#### Read Roman 6 - Appreciating the grace of God - Someone died

7. We won't die but Someone did. Who paid for this life of reigning grace (Rom 3:25)?

Jesus died to pay the price of reigning grace for all.

8. Living this life of grace require death (Rom 6:6). What type of death is this?

Death of the old self by crucifixion. This death is needed because it is an either or issue. We are either led by the Holy Spirit or led by the sinful nature. This is the struggle faced by all followers of Jesus. Personally, the main help comes from regular reading of the Word which increased my faith and obedience which helped developed a greater trust in God.

9. In verses 12 and 13 of chapter 6, what are the 2 'Do not' that we are exhorted to keep?

Verse 12. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

Practically, we ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the areas He wants us to change. We pray that He empower us to change and ask for wisdom to do what is humanly possible.

Verse 13. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.