

**DESIDERATA<sup>1</sup>**  
**NONSENSE AND SENSIBILITY ABOUT SIN—PART I**  
**Romans 6:1-14**  
**JANUARY 4, 2009**

**BIG IDEA: WHY NOT PLANT MORE SIN TO HARVEST MORE GRACE? (Verse 1)--OR: WHY SHOULDN'T CHRISTIANS SIN?**

**Verse 1**, *What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?*

Cf. next question--**Romans 6:15**, *What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Morris: "Let us sin lustily and thus give grace its maximum opportunity!"<sup>2</sup>*

**NOTE THE CONTEXTUAL TIE-IN: Romans 5:20**, *Now the law entered in, that sin might abound. And **where sin abounded, grace did more abound.***

I. THE "OLD MAN" WAS CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST [**VERSE 6**, *old self was crucified*]

A. Baptism Pictures It (**Verses 3-4**, *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

B. Freedom Results from It (**Verses 5-8**, *If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- <sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*)

**What am I? Old self/New self? (Verse 6)**

**Eradication View:<sup>3</sup>**

**LLOYD-JONES:** *"The 'old man' is the man I used to be in Adam.... It is the man I once was, but which I am no longer."<sup>4</sup>*

**JOHN MURRAY:** *"The old man is the unregenerate man; the new man is the regenerate man created in Christ Jesus unto good works. It is no more feasible to call a believer a new man and an old man, than it is to call him a regenerate man and an unregenerate."<sup>5</sup>*

**LLOYD JONES:** *"Understand that the 'old man' is not there. The only way to stop living as if he were there is to realize that he is not there. That is the New Testament method of teaching sanctification. The whole trouble with us, says the New Testament, is that we do not realize what we are, that we still go on thinking we are the old man."<sup>6</sup>*

**ELDREDGE IN WILD AT HEART<sup>7</sup>**--*Sin is not the deepest thing about you. You have a new heart. Did you hear me? Your heart is good. [133-134, Italics his]*

*To put it bluntly, your flesh is a weasel, a poser, and a selfish pig. And your flesh is not you. [Italics his] Did you know that? Your flesh is not the real you. (144)*

**The most common Alternative View:**

*(1) [T]hat the terms "old man," "old self," "sin nature," and "flesh" are synonyms. Consequently, since the New Testament clearly teaches that a Christian still has the flesh, he still has the old man. (2) And since this is so, the "crucifixion" of the old man in Romans 6 cannot be accepted as actual, but rather positional or judicial.<sup>8</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> *Desideratum: Something considered necessary or highly desirable.*

<sup>2</sup> Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988), 244.

<sup>3</sup> David C. Needham, *Birthright: Christian, Do You Know Who You Are?* (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1979).

<sup>4</sup> D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Romans, The New Man, An Exposition of Chapter 6* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973), 62.

<sup>5</sup> John Murray, *Principles of Conduct* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957), 218.

<sup>6</sup> Lloyd-Jones, 68.

<sup>7</sup> John Eldredge, *Wild at Heart* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001).

<sup>8</sup> Needham, 239.

## CRITIQUE OF THE TWO VIEWS: Why I think the eradication view is wrong.

1. It mis-defines the word, "FLESH."  
RYRIE ON *The Flesh*: **The concept.** *The flesh is that principle of sin within all of us. Some equate the sin nature and flesh. The flesh produces works (Gal. 5:19), is characterized by lusts and passions (v. 24; 11 John 2:16), and it can enslave the believer (Rom. 7:25). In it is nothing good (v. 18), for the presence of the new life in Christ makes all that is associated with the flesh old and useless. This includes blatantly evil things as well as amoral things and sometimes things that might be good in themselves but which bring no pleasure to God because they are works of the flesh. The control.* *The flesh can only be controlled by actualizing our co-crucifixion with Christ. We have crucified the flesh, that is, been separated from its domination by our association with Christ's dying unto sin (Gal. 5:24). We can experience victory not by eradication of the flesh but by walking in dependence on the Spirit to control it. (v. 16).<sup>9</sup>*  
*Flesh.* *Though flesh sometimes refers to tissue (Luke 24:39) or to the whole material part of man (1 Cor. 15:39; Heb. 5:7), when used of a facet of the immaterial nature it refers to that disposition to sin and to oppose God (Rom. 7:18; 1 Cor. 3:3; 2 Cor. 1:12; Gal. 5:17; Col. 2:18; 2 Peter 2:10; 1 John 2:16). Both the believer and unbeliever possess this capacity.<sup>10</sup>*
2. It doesn't adequately account for the exhortation "reckon." **Verse 11, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** If "my self" is already dead to sin, what need for reckoning?
3. It doesn't square with the following texts: **Ephesians 4:22-24** *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness...* **Colossians 3:9-10** *Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*
4. It mis-defines the "death" words in this passage:
  - a. NIV, **VERSE 6,** *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--"Done away with"= **KATARGEIO** from the basic sense *cause to be idle or useless*, the term always denotes a nonphysical destruction by means of a superior force coming in to replace the force previously in effect, as, e.g. light destroys darkness; (1) in relation to soil *use up, make barren (LU 13.7)*; (2) as release by removal from a former sphere of control *free from; passive be discharged from, be freed from (RO 7.2)*; (3) as destruction by replacement *abolish, destroy, cause to cease, put an end to (1C 2.6; 13.11)*<sup>11</sup> **Morris:** *Not destroyed, but made impotent, nullified.**
  - b. **Morris:** *If his word for "old" is used strictly, it brings out the idea of "wornness", the result of the wear and tear of time, the old as outworn....<sup>12</sup>*
5. It promises too much—At best, it sets up a confusing dualism of body/spirit that yields the same results in how one lives the Christian life.
6. At worst, it tampers with my accountability for my sin before God by affirming that my sin is not really from me. **Eldredge:** *[Y]our flesh is not you...not the real you.<sup>13</sup>*
7. It seems that the most serious sins are purely spiritual and are exclusive of the weakness of the body. Note the sin of Satan: **Isaiah 14:13-14,** *You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."* Note also **1 John 2:16,** *For everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man [lit., sarx, flesh], the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world.*

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<sup>9</sup> Ryrie, Charles, *Basic Theology* (Wheaton: SP Publications, 1986), 231-232

<sup>10</sup> Ryrie, 199.

<sup>11</sup> Software *Bibleworks*

<sup>12</sup> Morris, 251.

<sup>13</sup> Eldredge, 144.