

BREAKING THE POWER OF CANCELLED SIN

Shall We Continue to Live Under Sin's Dominion?

Romans 6:1–14 | Romans Series | PBC 2026

INDUCTIVE STUDY GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

These questions are designed for personal study, journaling, or small-group discussion. Read Romans 6:1–14 slowly before you begin. As you work through each question, resist the urge to give quick or expected answers — let the text examine you. The goal is not information but transformation.

THE TEXT — Romans 6:1–14 (ESV)

Romans 6:1–14

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

INDUCTIVE STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The Question That Reveals Our Heart (look at Romans 6:1)

Paul says that a genuine believer's response to the question 'Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?' should be an emphatic 'Absolutely not!' Yet this question doesn't come from an atheist — it comes from someone who has actually heard and understood the gospel. What does this tell you about how easy it is to misuse or abuse the doctrine of grace? Have you ever been tempted — even subtly — to use grace as a reason not to pursue radical change in a specific area of your life? What was that area, and what did you tell yourself?

2. What It Means to Be 'Baptized Into Christ' (look at Romans 6:3)

Paul says in verse 3 that every believer 'has been baptized into Christ Jesus' — permanently placed into Him by the Holy Spirit at conversion. This is not water baptism but spiritual union. Think about

what it means to be organically joined to Christ the way a branch is grafted into a vine (John 15). In your own words, how does this permanent union with Christ logically make it impossible for you to continue living as if sin still owns you? Does this reality feel alive and real to you, or more like a theological fact you know but haven't fully internalized? Explain the difference in your own experience.

3. Israel at the Red Sea — Understanding Your New Identity (Look at 1 Cor. 10:1-5)

When Israel passed through the Red Sea, they permanently left Pharaoh's authority behind and were united to a new leader (Moses), a new law, and a new land. Paul uses this picture (1 Cor. 10:1–2) to describe what happened to you at conversion. Before you were saved, who or what was your 'Pharaoh' — the dominant force or loyalty that owned your life and drove your choices? Now that you are on the other side of the Red Sea, what does it look like on a practical, daily level to refuse to answer to that old authority? Be specific about one area of your life where this is still a struggle.

- What habits or patterns in your life still reflect the old life 'in Egypt'?
- What would it look like to truly live as someone who has crossed the "Red Sea" as a committed, public follower of Jesus?

4. Co-Crucified: Your Old Self Is Dead (Look at Romans 6:6-7)

Romans 6:6 says 'our old self was crucified with him.' This was a decisive, completed event — not something still in process. Three things were accomplished: sin's power over your body was nullified, you were loosed from slavery to sin, and you were declared free (justified is the term that is used in 7:7) from sin. If all three of these are objectively true of you as a believer, what explains the gap between this reality and your daily experience? In what specific areas does it still feel like you are a prisoner or a slave? What would it take for you to act as someone who has been legally cleared of all charges and set completely free?

5. The American Revolution and Your Freedom

250 years after the American Revolution, no citizen would willingly pay taxes to the British Parliament or submit to the King of England — that authority was defeated and its dominion ended. The freedom our founders won is fully ours, even though we didn't fight for it. Paul says this is exactly what happened when Christ died and rose again — the power of sin was defeated and our freedom was won, even though we were not present at the cross. If you genuinely understand this, what would it look like to stop voluntarily submitting to an authority that has no legal claim on you anymore? Where in your life are you still handing power back to a defeated enemy?

6. Rendering a Verdict — The First Command in Romans (Look at Romans 6:11)

Romans 6:11 contains the first command in the entire book of Romans: 'You must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God.' The word 'consider' (λογίζομαι) means to reckon or render a decisive verdict — like a judge delivering a final ruling. This goes beyond understanding and admiring these truths about salvation; it means believing them enough to build your entire life on them. Think about the illustration of someone who fully understands investing, completely trusts their financial advisor, and sees wonderful results — yet keeps their money under the mattress. Where are you keeping your spiritual 'money under the mattress'? What would it look like to render a decisive verdict and act on what you know is true?

- Is there a specific area where you have acknowledged a truth about your identity in Christ but have not yet entrusted your life to it?
- What is holding you back from rendering that verdict?

7. The Command to Stop — Identifying Where Sin Still Reigns (Look at Romans 6:12)

In verse 12, Paul commands us to stop letting sin reign in our mortal bodies — to stop obeying the same passions and drives that owned us before conversion. The sermon gives specific examples: approach to conflict and hurt, approach to lust, approach to money, how you treat your spouse, approach to sexual temptation. Take an honest inventory. In which of these areas (or others not listed)

does sin still effectively reign in your body? Do not give the expected Sunday-school answer — what is actually happening in your daily life that shows sin has not yet been dethroned in a specific area?

8. Presenting Your Body — A Formal Act of Dedication (Look at Romans 6:13)

Romans 6:13 uses a formal, deliberate word — 'present' — the same language used for offering a sacrifice. Paul is calling for a decisive act: stop formally presenting your body to sin for unrighteousness, and start formally presenting it to God as an instrument of righteousness. This mirrors the call in Romans 12:1–2 to present your body as a living sacrifice. Have you ever made this kind of formal, intentional dedication of your body to God? What specific areas of your life have never been explicitly surrendered to Him as instruments of His righteousness? What would it look like to do this today, right now, in prayer?

- Name one specific 'member' (capacity, skill, relationship, schedule area) you are willing to present to God as an instrument of righteousness this week.

9. The Promise That Changes Everything (Look at Romans 6:14)

Romans 6:14 is not a suggestion — it is a divine promise: 'Sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.' And crucially, grace here is not just forgiveness; it is power and enablement. The Holy Spirit is the grace that empowers the new life (Romans 7:6). Think about a specific area where you feel completely stuck in sin — a pattern you have tried to break many times and failed. How does the promise of Romans 6:14 speak directly into that situation? What would it mean for you to lean into the power of grace (the Spirit's enablement) rather than relying on your own willpower or resolve?

10. The Hardest Question — Have You Truly Crossed the Red Sea?

The message ends with a direct challenge: 'Have you presented yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members as instruments of righteousness?' This is not merely asking if you have prayed a prayer or made a profession of faith. It is asking whether there was a moment — or a developing conviction — where you looked at your entire life and decided that from this point forward it would no longer be used for the things you used to live for. If someone observed your daily choices over the last month — how you use your time, money, body, and attention — would they be able to tell that you have crossed the Red Sea? What would you need to change for the answer to be yes?

- Write out one specific commitment you are willing to make based on what Romans 6:1–14 has shown you about yourself.

PERSONAL REFLECTION EXERCISE

Use this diagnostic table to assess where you are with the core truths of Romans 6:1–14. Be ruthlessly honest.

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTION	YOUR HONEST ANSWER
New Identity	Do you see yourself as someone who has truly died and been raised with Christ — or do you still identify primarily with your old self and its patterns?
Verdict Rendered?	Have you rendered the decisive verdict of Romans 6:11 — not just understood it, but staked your life on it as a settled fact?
Areas of Reign	In which areas does sin still effectively reign in your mortal body? Name them.
Formal Presentation	Have you formally and intentionally presented your body to God as an instrument of righteousness (Rom. 6:13; 12:1–2)?
Trusting Grace	Are you trusting the Holy Spirit's power (grace as enablement) to break sin's dominion — or are you still relying on willpower alone?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION — THIS WEEK

◆ **Read Romans 6:1–14 every day this week:** Read it slowly, as if for the first time. Each day, ask: 'What does this passage say is true about me? Am I living as if it is true?'

◆ **Render the Verdict in Prayer:** Set aside 15 minutes for a specific, deliberate act of presenting yourself to God (Romans 6:13; 12:1–2). Use your own words. Name the specific areas you are surrendering as instruments of righteousness.

◆ **Name the Unchanged Area:** Identify one specific area where sin still reigns in your mortal body. Tell a trusted friend or mentor. Ask them to pray with you and hold you accountable to stop presenting that area to sin.

◆ **Memorize Romans 6:11:** Write this verse on a card and review it every morning: 'So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.' Let this be the verdict you rehearse over yourself daily.

→ **Prepare for Next Week:** Romans 6:15–23 will ask the harder question: What do I do about deeply entrenched sins I can't seem to overcome no matter how hard I try? Come prepared with that honest question in hand.

MEMORY VERSE

"So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Romans 6:11 (ESV)

Consider also memorizing: "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." — Romans 6:14