

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

This is such a glorious scripture and promise to Christians. Sin shall not have dominion over us: for we are not under the Law, but under Grace! This promise is crucial for us to appropriate in order to live a God honoring life as we should. It is important to know what it means to be “under Law” and “under Grace”. Being under Law means to be subject of a code of laws to which your works and personal obedience to them will be offered to God for his acceptance or rejection of you as a person. To be under the Law means that by your works and personal obedience you endeavor to merit God's acceptance, favor, and blessings. The standard of God's Law is that man's works be perfect and his obedience be complete in all things at all times. To fail in any point is to be guilty of breaking the whole Law. [James 2:10] No man could live under the Law and merit God's acceptance, favor, and blessings. Instead of keeping the Law man broke God's law and was sentenced to death. The wages for sin is death. [Rom. 6:23] This leaves man in a dire and terrible situation. There is no hope for a man under Law, except one. This way was pictured by the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant. The death of an unblemished innocent animal could cover the sins of a sinner. However, the blood of bulls and goats can never take away sins. [Heb. 10:4] There had to be a better and permanent solution for man's problem. God has offered a way out from being “under the Law”. God's offer is to be “under grace”. The offer to be “under grace” means that Christ performed all the work of redemption for man and offers it to man for his acceptance or rejection of Himself

and His work in their behalf. When we place our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ we receive His very life through His Spirit and come "under grace". The Spirit of God comes to dwell in us to teach us, guide us, and most importantly to empower us to live a God honoring life. The word grace means unmerited favor and ability. Strong's concordance has this as part of its definition- **"the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life"** Being "under" something in biblical language means to be under something's control, power, or influence. What does it mean to be under grace? It means to be under the influence of the unmerited favor and power of God. All people are under the influence of something. What you yield to by a decision of your will is what will influence you. It will end up controlling you and exercising dominion over you. Each Christian through their decision of faith came under the influence of grace and the Spirit of God at the new birth. Each believer was born again by the Spirit of God when He moved into their heart. We received the unmerited and power of the Holy Spirit that caused us to be born again, but we must daily make a decision to live "under grace". Some Christians do not understand what it means to be "under grace". Some desire to live in sin and claim they are "under grace". Such Christians are deluded. **They are definitely not under grace.** The text verse Romans 6:14, tells us what will happen if we are "under grace". **Sin shall not have dominion over us!** When we are under the influence of grace, we will not be under the influence of sin, or alcohol, or drugs, or pornography, or covetousness, or any other sin! Christians that claim to be under grace are not under grace, they are under the influence of their flesh! Some claim that grace gives them a license to sin. You have probably heard people do not need a

license to sin; they will sin anyway without one! **No, grace is not the freedom to sin, but the freedom to stop sinning.** Sin is bondage! Grace is the power to break the bondage of the power of sin in your life! Some Christians when called upon to live up to godly standards, will say, "Don't put me in bondage; I am not under the Law! I am under Grace!" **Listen to me, Grace does not free you to live as you want, but it frees you to live as God wants!** Grace frees you and empowers you to glorify God with holy living. Grace is the power of God through the Holy Spirit to manifest God's fruit of righteousness. **Grace frees you from the bondage of trying to produce for God out of your own limited resources, and frees you to start living from God's unlimited resources in you through His Spirit!** Many use grace as an excuse to live unholy, but in reality grace is very means by which we can live holy. **Some use grace as an excuse to sin, but grace is the reason we can stop sinning!** Many Christians see that grace merely means the forgiveness of sins. This is only half the story of grace. God's righteousness has two sides to it. Let's get a little theological here. The two sides of righteousness are: imputed righteousness and imparted righteousness. Imputed righteousness means that you are judicially cleared of sin by the blood and innocence of Christ and His righteousness is placed on your account. Now that is great news, but rather impractical when it comes to living the Christian life. If Christ's righteousness is merely put to my account and is the legal verdict that frees me from the guilt of my sin and that is all there is then I am still left powerless and with my limited resources to live as I ought. Many Christians say they are forgiven but seem to think they have no power over sin. They say they are just sinners saved by grace. They just see themselves as forgiven, not changed! God did more

than just put righteousness in your account, God put righteousness in you! Christ through His Spirit is the force of righteousness that came to live inside of you at the new birth. Now you have the super-natural ability to live holy by dependence on the Spirit of God within you. The Spirit is the power of God to enable you to live holy. As you believe God about your new righteous identity and nature through the new birth, and believe you are righteous -as you ought to be- through the new birth, then you will live out from those realities. It takes renewing your mind. You do this by constantly speaking over yourself what God says about in you in the New Testament. We need to brain wash ourselves with the truth, by continually speaking it! Grace has been given to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit and the New Covenant scriptures to cause us to be under the influence of God Himself. When someone is under the influence of alcohol or drugs they do stupid stuff. When we are under the influence of God and of grace we will do smart stuff! Which do you want? It is a no-brainer guys! We can be under the influence of law and sin, or we can be under the influence of grace through our faith in the finished work of Jesus and His gift of His imputed and imparted righteousness. I choose to be under the influence of grace!