

## **TWO MANIFESTATIONS OF SIN**

### **SIN by Habitual Nature or SIN by Deliberate Choice**

#### **Romans 6:1 & 15**

In Romans 6:1 Paul, after reminding us that passing laws against sin was producing more sinners, facetiously I believe, is asking if we should keep on sinning so we could receive more grace. A few verses later in 15, he repeats almost the same question again, asking if we should sin because we are not under the law. In both questions he is referring to the fact that his readers were now living under a new worthiness and spiritual authority provided by the atoning grace of Christ.

Is Paul repeating himself to make a point? I don't think so! I believe he has a specific reason for asking almost the same question two times. He is addressing two different manifestations of our sinful, self reliant, fear driven behavior after the fall; metaphorically partaking from "*The tree of knowledge of good and evil*" described early in Genesis.

In the first inquiry, verse 1, Paul is addressing our continuing sinful behavior as habits by nature after the fall - fear, guilt, shame, defeat, doubt, etc. When he seems to be repeating himself in verse 15, he is addressing spontaneous sin by deliberate choices as opportunities arise.

Notice, in the first verse, Paul refers to "*continue in sin*", "*remain in sin*" or "*keep on sinning*", as the various translations state his question. It's as though he is referring only to habits we inherently live with. In Romans 14:23 Paul reminds us again, "*Whatever is not from faith is sin.*"

In verse 6:15 Paul asks the question as though he is referring to voluntary, willful sinning by choice with terms like "*shall we sin*" and "*go ahead and sin*", because we know we are living under atoning grace.

Paul wants to cover both manifestations of our self reliant lifestyle. He is not repeating himself! I like to refer to the first category as "Habits and Ignorance" and the second category as "Irresponsible Choices."

Our perpetual sin nature is confirmed again in 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:10 where we are reminded that: "*If we say we have not sinned, we make Him (God) a liar, and His Word is not in us.*" (NAS)

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