Romans 6:1-7:6
Group Discussion Guide

In this sermon, Pastor Jon continues a series through the book of Romans, focusing on chapters six and seven. He addresses the core tension that arises from the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith: if salvation is free and not earned, will people simply take advantage of it? Paul answers this question not with a simple "no" but by unpacking what it truly means to live under grace. Pastor Jon walks through seven principles that Paul lays out, showing that grace is not a license to sin but rather the very power that transforms a believer from the inside out.

The sermon emphasizes that salvation is free to us but cost Jesus everything, and that following Christ is a call to die to the old self and walk in newness of life. Grace changes the motivation behind obedience, removes the ultimate penalty of sin while still allowing natural consequences, and actively creates saints rather than merely forgiving sinners. Good works flow as fruit from salvation, not as its root. Faith unites a person to Christ in a living relationship, and God's ultimate goal is not just acquittal but complete transformation through the Holy Spirit.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the grace You have so freely given us. As we open Your Word together, we ask that You soften our hearts and quiet our pride. Help each person in this group to set aside any preconceived ideas and be open to what You want to speak into their life today. May Your Holy Spirit guide our conversation, draw us closer to You and to one another, and let the truth of Your grace take deeper root in each of us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing someone has done for you that you found genuinely difficult to accept or receive, and why was it hard to just say thank you?

Key Verses

- Romans 1:16-17
- Romans 6:1-7:6

Questions

- Pastor Jon described two types of people who push back against salvation by grace: the 'worker' who wants to earn it and the 'opportunist' who thinks good works no longer matter. Which of these tendencies do you find yourself leaning toward more, and why?
- Paul says that salvation is free to us but cost Jesus everything. How does reflecting on the price Jesus paid change the way you think about receiving grace rather than trying to earn it?
- The sermon used the image of baptism as following Jesus into death and back out again. What does it mean practically in your daily life to 'die to yourself' and walk in newness of life?
- Pastor Jon said that grace changes the reason we obey, not whether we obey. Before you understood grace more fully, what was motivating your obedience to God? How has that motivation shifted, or how do you want it to shift?
- The gospel removes the ultimate penalty of sin but not always the natural consequences. Can you share a time when you experienced the natural consequences of a poor choice even while knowing you were forgiven? What did you learn about God through that experience?
- Pastor Jon described the Holy Spirit as being at war with the sin in us, and said that conflict is actually evidence of God's love and discipline. How does reframing spiritual struggle as God's refining work rather than evidence of failure change your perspective on your own walk with Christ?
- Paul uses the phrase 'slaves of righteousness,' which sounds like a contradiction. What do you think he means by it, and how does belonging fully to God feel different from the kind of slavery sin creates?
- Pastor Jon said God's goal is transformation, not merely acquittal. In what area of your life do you most sense God working to transform you right now, and what would it look like to cooperate with that process instead of resisting it?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you have been either trying to earn God's approval through your own effort or using grace as an excuse to avoid growth. Write it down and bring it honestly before God in prayer each day. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what cooperating with His

transforming work looks like in that specific area, and take one concrete step toward that cooperation before the group meets again.

Key Takeaways

- Salvation is free to us but cost Jesus everything, and following Christ is a call to surrender our whole life, not just receive a benefit.
- Grace changes the reason we obey God. We no longer obey to earn something but because we already have everything in Christ, and love becomes the only motivation left.
- The gospel removes the ultimate penalty of sin, but natural consequences remain. Spiritual struggle and God's discipline are signs of His love, not evidence that we are unsaved.
- Grace does not merely forgive sinners; it actively creates saints. God is using every circumstance in our lives to transform us into something eternal and fruitful.
- Good works are the fruit of salvation, not its root. Faith unites us to Christ in a living relationship, and out of that union flows a life that bears fruit for God and others.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of grace that is so much bigger and more beautiful than we often allow ourselves to believe. Thank You that You are not simply trying to acquit us but that You are actively transforming us into something eternal. As we leave this time together, help us to stop striving to earn what You have already freely given, and help us to cooperate with the work Your Holy Spirit is doing in each of our lives. Where we are struggling, remind us that Your discipline is a sign of Your love. Where we are tempted to take advantage of grace, draw our hearts back to the beauty of our relationship with You. May we leave here not just knowing more about grace but actually living in it more fully this week. In the name of Jesus, amen.