

A Seat That Changes You

Romans 5:12–6:23

BY NO MEANS

Last week: the seat **holds** — you can't fall off the porch. So here's the honest question that raises, the one somebody's always afraid to ask out loud: *if grace covers everything, why not just do whatever I want?* Paul asks it for you — and answers in two words: **by no means**. Not because you'd lose your seat. Because the seat changes the one sitting in it.

1. Two Men, and You're Downstream of One (5:12–21)

Everything traces back to two men. Adam broke it, and the damage reached all of us. Christ mended it, and the free gift reached further than the damage ever did. Whatever went wrong in the first man, the second man **out-gave**. Grace didn't just break even with sin — it flooded past it. Grace is on the throne now.

2. You Didn't Just Get Forgiven — You Died (6:1–4)

So should we keep sinning so grace has more to cover? Paul's answer is basically: you *can't* — that's not who you are anymore. When you came to Christ you didn't only get pardoned; the old you was buried and a new you was raised "to walk in newness of life." It was never *behave-or-else*. It's *you're-a-different-person-now*.

3. Count It True (6:5–14)

Paul's one instruction isn't "try harder." It's "**consider yourselves** dead to sin and alive to God." Count it true — the change already happened, so live like it's real. Sin may still knock, but it's not the boss anymore. And here's the line for anyone worn out by rules: sin loses its grip on you because you are "**not under law but under grace**." It was never the rules that set you free. It was grace.

4. It Comes Down to Whose You Are (6:15–23)

You always belong to whatever runs your life. The old owner was sin, and it only ever paid one wage: death. The new owner is God — and what He gives isn't a paycheck, it's a gift: "**the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our**

Lord.” You *earn* wages. You can only *receive* a gift. Stop trying to buy the seat that’s already yours.

SIT WITH IT

Are you still trying to earn a seat you were already given? Read verse 23 one more time — wages are earned, but this is a gift. Then just receive it — and let it change you.

No matter the distance, you’re not alone. The porch light’s on, and there’s always room on the porch.