

Romans 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

For sin shall not have dominion over you—hamartia gar hymōn ou kyrieusei (ἁμαρτία γὰρ ὑμῶν οὐ κυριεύσει). The future kyrieusei (κυριεύσει, shall lord over, exercise mastery) contains assurance: sin's tyranny is broken and will not reassert itself because of believers' new position. This isn't prediction but promise based on the reality Paul has expounded. The verb kyrieuō (κυριεύω) indicates total mastery, lordship—sin no longer has legal authority over those justified in Christ.

For ye are not under the law, but under grace—ou gar este hypo nomon alla hypo charin (οὐ γὰρ ἐστε ὑπὸ νόμον ἀλλὰ ὑπὸ χάριν). The prepositional phrase hypo (ὑπό, under) indicates dominion, jurisdiction. Believers have changed jurisdictions: from **under law** (which condemns but cannot empower) to **under grace** (which justifies and empowers). This doesn't mean lawlessness but new covenant empowerment. The law's jurisdiction ended at death (Romans 7:1-6); believers died in Christ, escaping law's condemnation and entering grace's realm where the Spirit enables obedience. Paul's logic: law-keeping for righteousness produces sin's dominion (because law reveals but doesn't remedy sin); grace-reliance breaks sin's dominion by providing both forgiveness and the Spirit's power.

Historical Context

Jewish Christians struggled with the law's role post-Messiah. The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) debated Gentile circumcision; Paul consistently taught that

covenant identity comes through faith in Christ, not law-keeping. 'Under law' meant under the Mosaic covenant's jurisdiction—both its promises and curses. Roman legal system also operated jurisdictionally; Paul's metaphor of changing jurisdictions (from law to grace) would resonate. Grace (charis) in Greco-Roman culture meant patron-client favor; Paul transforms this: God's grace isn't quid pro quo but freely given, enabling transformed life.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that you're 'not under law but under grace' affect your battle with habitual sin?
2. Where might you be living as though still 'under law,' trying to earn righteousness rather than living from grace?
3. What does 'sin shall not have dominion over you' mean practically when you still experience temptation and failure?

Interlinear Text

ἁμαρτία	γάρ	ὑμῶν	οὐ	κυριεύσει·	οὐ	γάρ	ἐστε	ὑπὸ
sin	For	you	not	have dominion over	not	For	ye are	under
G266	G1063	G5216	G3756	G2961	G3756	G1063	G2075	G5259
νόμον	ἀλλ'	ὑπὸ	χάριν					
the law	but	under	grace					
G3551	G235	G5259	G5485					

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:2 (Word): For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Galatians 5:18 (Word): But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Hebrews 8:10 (Word): For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Romans 6:12 (Sin): Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

John 1:17 (Grace): For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

John 8:36 (Parallel theme): If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Romans 8:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

Matthew 1:21 (Sin): And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Galatians 3:23 (Word): But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Romans 11:6 (Grace): And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.