

Keep on Sinning as if it's no Big Deal? By No Means!

Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

CONNECT

with self and others:

- **1.** What is something ridiculous that you did as a kid, that you got in trouble for?
- 2. Why did you do it?
- **3.** What were the consequences for your actions?

ENGAGE

the word

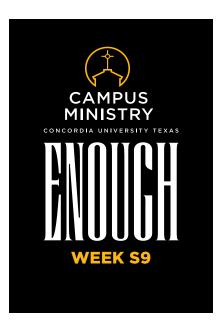
Romans 6:1-2 "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By

no means! We are those who have died to sin, how can we live in it any longer?"

One of my earliest childhood memories revolves around the day I attempted to take files from my dad's filing cabinet. Intrigued by the papers within, I felt an urge to touch them. With determination, I extended my tiny little hand into the vast box of files. Suddenly, my father, who had been observing my every move, swiftly swatted my hand away.

Despite the surprise, I refused to back down; it became a personal battle. Repeatedly, I reached for the files, each attempt met with a smack to my hand. I persisted, driven by a need for what lay inside that box, oblivious to the chaos it would create for my father to sort out later if I succeeded. My hand was smacked 50 times or so; I was in tears, and my hand was red and in pain, so eventually, I gave up.

I learned that the filing cabinet was not a battle I was meant to win this time. This childhood episode draws a parallel to our relationship with sin. Like a child fixated on the forbidden filing cabinet, we often run towards sin, making excuses or choosing to ignore its consequences. We may justify our actions by declaring, "I don't care; I'll do what I want." Much like the child repeatedly



VOTES:		_
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reaching for the files, we speedily gravitate towards selfishness, desires, and addictions. We seek the flesh and live as if we are still dead in our sin.

We are called to rely on the grace of Jesus, trusting in forgiveness even when we persist in our sinful ways. However, this grace isn't a license to indulge in sin without consequence. Have you ever caught yourself thinking, "I'll be forgiven anyway, so I might as well do it"? This is a way the devil convinces us to sin. While relying on Jesus' overwhelming grace, we must not fall into the idea that forgiveness excuses a deliberate pursuit of sin. Sin may not condemn us to hell, but it does bring chaos into our lives, like the consequences I faced as a child.

Sometimes, the Lord intervenes with corrective measures like a smack on the hand, to prevent our stubbornness in our sin from ruining our lives. Embrace your new life as a redeemed child of the Father, and resist the temptation of fleshly desires, no matter how strong they may be.

QUESTIONS:

- **1.** Paul uses the words "died to sin." What does it mean for us to be dead in our sin?
- **2.** Think of a time when you knew something was wrong but did it anyway. Did you make an excuse in your mind to defend that wrong deed? What was that excuse?
- **3.** What does it mean for us to rely on the grace of Jesus? Is it possible for us to abuse this grace?



SHARE

apply to your life:

Let's move into a time of confession and absolution.

PRAYER:

Lord, we often run to sin, we live in the flesh and turn from You. We make excuses so

that we can sin. Create in me a clean heart, Lord. We choose to live in death and forget about Your promises to us. We forget the life You promise us in Christ. Create in me a clean heart, oh Lord. Through Your abounding and everlasting grace, You forgive us and create in us a clean heart. Thank you for making us into a new creation. **Amen**

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