December 6 Answers

1) Paul now explained the results of justification: peace and reconciliation with God. Our responsibility is to nurture the love God has given us by obeying His commands and yielding to the desires of the Spirit. Paul continued by addressing the question of whether one man could bring life to so many. Indeed, Jesus could, for just as Adam's sin brought condemnation and death to all men, so Jesus' obedience brought justification and life to all men (Rom 5:18). Paul next addressed the accusation that by emphasizing grace, he was encouraging a lifestyle of sin. "By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom 6:1–2). This means we have both the obligation and the ability to live above sin. Paul went on to say, "My brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ" (Rom 7:4). Paul explained that the law, which was "holy and righteous and good," could not, in itself, justify the sinner; it could only expose their sinful heart and provoke them to more sin. In Christ there is no condemnation, for what the law could not do, the Spirit could. This means that we are free to walk, not after the flesh, but after the Holy Spirit. We know that God is working all things together for our good, that we might be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.