

Freedom to Serve

Romans 6:15-18

¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Forced Slavery or Voluntary Submission?

Since our sin is stronger than we are, to be free from its control, we must submit to a master that is stronger. When the Christian trusts Christ for this freedom from sin, he obeys from his heart a new and gracious master. Our voluntary submission to Christ brings with it a desire to willingly obey His righteous requests. God then will graciously supply the needed power to live righteously!

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

Part 1—Freedom to Sin?

Read Romans 6:14-15; Ephesians 2:8-10

- 1) Why is it ridiculous (according to Rom 6:14-15) to sin since we are not under the law?
- 2) According to Ephesians 2 how does God's grace (and freedom from obligatory works) affect our actions?
- 3) When seeking wisdom for practical decisions do you first consult God's law or His grace? Why?

Part 2—Submission and Slavery

Read Romans 6:16; Matthew 6:24

- 1) What freedom of choice does the servant/slave have according to this verse?
- 2) According to Matthew 6:24 why is being a Christian AND serving sin a ridiculous thought?
- 3) How often do you (or should you) consciously submit yourself intentionally to the Lord? What does that look like practically?

Part 3—Heart Obedience

Read Romans 6:17; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Proverbs 4:23

- 1) Why do you think justification demands "heart" obedience as opposed to "external" obedience?
- 2) According to Ezekiel 36 and Proverbs 4, how does the heart affect our actions?
- 3) Could you be a Christian without a heart change? Why?

Part 4—Trading Masters

Read Romans 6:17-18; Colossians 1:12-14

- 1) What was your first "act" of obedience according to these verses and how is that submission to a new master?
- 2) What two domains and masters do you see in Colossians 1? Do you think it is possible to play both sides? Why?
- 3) Why do you think it is worth it to trade masters?

Don't forget the Big Idea!