

God's Good News About Righteousness

An Inductive Study of the Book of Romans

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The Necessity of Sanctification (Romans 6:1-23), Part 2

Study 12, Should believers commit acts of sin in view of their freedom from Law?

Romans 6:15-23

- A. INTRODUCTION: The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (Romans 1:1-17). (Study 1)
- B. CONDEMNATION: The Unveiling of God's Wrath against Man's Unrighteousness 1:18 - 3:20 (Studies 2-5)
- C. JUSTIFICATION: The Declaration of Righteousness through Faith 3:21 - 5:21 (Studies 6-10)
- D. **SANCTIFICATION: The Out-working of Righteousness in the Believer's Experience 6 - 8.** In Romans 1:1-17, we were introduced to the subject of the Good News – that God has provided salvation for everyone who believes. In Romans 1:18 - 3:20, we learned that God has unveiled his wrath against man's unrighteousness. In Romans 3:21 - 5:21, we learned that God declares people righteousness when they trust in Jesus! In Romans chapters 6 - 8 we will learn about **sanctification**, which means **being set apart from sin to serve God**. These three chapters describe the out-working of righteousness in the believer's experience.
 - 1. **The Necessity of Sanctification in Relation to Sin 6:1-23.** In Romans 6, we will learn that sanctification – living our lives set apart to God – is an absolute necessity. We can't keep sinning like we used to before we became believers.
 - a. Part 1: Should believers continue to sin to attract God's grace? 6:1-14. (Study 11)
 - b. **Part 2: Should believers commit acts of sin in view of their freedom from Law? (Study 12)**
 - 1) **The Question:** What question does Paul ask in 6:15a? ¹
 - 2) **The Answer:** What answer does he give in 6:15b?

¹ 6:15 explanation. Being under law means that your acceptability before God depends on how well you keep His laws. This is a huge problem, because no one can ever keep them satisfactorily. Being under grace means accepting God's free gift of forgiveness in Jesus. Forgiveness is free of charge to us because we can't earn it. Human forgiveness was not free to God, however. Grace cost God the death of His Son, Jesus. The question Paul raises is, "If we are under grace, should we keep sinning?"

3) **The Explanation of the Slavery Principle (6:16-18):** Paul explains his answer by speaking of the *Slavery Principle* (6:16-18). Slavery was a normal part of the Roman Empire. Slavery, whether voluntary or involuntary, was an analogy everyone would understand in that culture.

- a) Here is the **Slavery Principle** in a nutshell (6:16a): If you voluntarily submit yourself to obey something, you become a slave to it.
- b) If you voluntarily submit yourself to sin, you become a slave to what? (16:b)
- c) If you voluntarily submit yourself to obedience, you become a slave to what? (16:6c)
- d) Paul thanks God for the Roman believers. They used to be slaves of what? (6:17a)
- e) To what, from their hearts, had they become obedient? (6:17b)
- f) Having done so, they were freed from what? (6:18a)
- g) They became slaves of what? (6:18b)

4) **The Application of the Slavery Principle Commanded (6:19).** Paul is speaking on a human level to make sure they understand.

- a) What had they formerly (before they became Christians) presented the members of their bodies as slaves? (This had been a decisive act on their part.)

i _____

ii _____

- b) What was the result? _____

- c) They are now commanded, in a decisive act, to present the members of their bodies as slaves to what?

- d) What will be the result? _____ (This word means being set apart *to God from sin.*)

5) The Results of the Slavery Principle Elaborated. (6:20-23).

- a) Past results of slavery to sin. (6:20-21)

i When they, in their pre-Christian lives, had been slaves to sin, from what were they free? (6:20)

ii What were the benefits they experienced from being enslaved to sin? (6:20)

(a) Presently, they are _____ of what they had been doing.

(b) What is the end result of being enslaved to sin? _____.

- b) The present results of slavery to God. (6:22)

i What have they now been freed from? _____

ii To whom are they now enslaved? _____

iii What is the present result? _____ (This word means being set apart *to God from sin.*)

iv What is the end result? _____

- c) The summary of the results. (6:23)

i What do you earn by sinning? _____

ii What is the free gift from God? _____

iii How do we get this free gift? _____

6) Applying What You Have Learned.

- a) Have you ever been ashamed of things you have done in the past? (6:20)

- b) Are you now, or were you in the past ever a slave to sin? (6:17a, 19a)
- c) Do you understand that the more you sin the more you become a slave (addicted) to sinning? (6:16)
- d) When you were a slave to sin (or perhaps you still are) did you feel you were exempt from having to be righteous? (6:20)
- e) Do you understand that sin always earns death? (6:16, 21, 23)?
- f) Have you personally ever received God's gift of eternal life by trusting in Jesus Christ? (6:23)
- g) If you have, do you understand that God now commands you to present the members of your body as a slave to doing the right thing? (6:19b)
- h) Do you understand that the more you obey God, the more you become a slave (addicted) to doing the right thing? (6:16)
- i) Do you choose to serve sin or righteousness? (If you have not yet received God's gift of forgiveness in Jesus, you must do that first. Otherwise you will remain a slave of sinning no matter how much effort you put into it.)

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