

The Greatest Letter Ever
Living Under Grace
Romans 6:14-23

Introduction: The Way It Works

Last Week: The directive to offer our bodies as instruments of righteousness

*For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.
(Romans 6:14)*

An Objection: Christians are free to sin since grace has it all covered anyway.

*What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!
(Romans 6:15)*

Recognize: That is not the way it works! As followers of Jesus we are called to lifestyles of holiness. This is Paul's focus in Romans 6-8 as he presents the doctrine of sanctification. As we follow Christ, we grow spiritually, the influence of sin decreases, and we become more holy. This brings us to this question.

Question: Do you ever struggle with sin?

The Freedom That Is Given (vv. 16-18)

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Romans 6:16-18)

Question: What does this talk about slavery mean?

- 1. It means there is no excuse for sin**
- 2. It means there is not such thing as absolute freedom for anyone**
- 3. It means you are a slave to something**

Notice: There are only two options available to us

- Slaves to sin, which leads to death
- Slaves to obedience, which leads to righteousness

Question: Why would anyone choose to serve sin?

4. It means you are free to be a slave to obedience

Note: You have been set free from sin and have become slaves of righteousness.

The Choice You Make (vv. 19-22)

Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. (Romans 6:19-22)

Question: Do we really believe this?

Question: If we understand this truth and actually believe it, would we sin as frequently and easily as we sometimes do?

Question: Why would we take sin lightly and be as casual in pursuing righteousness as we are?

The fact of the matter: There is total freedom only in slavery to God.

A Final Note of Freedom (v. 23)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

The Wages		The Free Gift
Of sin	BUT	Of God
Is Death		Is Eternal Life

Conclusion: Which Master? It's Your Choice

The Big Takeaway: Obedience to God is the key to being free.

A Helpful Four-Step Process (from Chuck Swindoll)

1. Flee temptation
2. Do something that honors God
3. Thank God for the freedom to choose Him
4. Try to discern what triggered the temptation