

**March 30, 2023**

# Living Holy in a Hellish World

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Romans 6:12-14

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**Romans 6:12–14**, *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

- Paul is writing to Romans who live in Rome in and around 60 A.D.. It was a cesspool, a hellhole, and a open stage to wide variety of sin, evil, and debauchery. It is said that Sodom and Gomorrah would blush at Rome's sin.
- Rome was the power hub of the known world and location of Caesar's palace. It is a city of great architecture, concentrated wealth, and outward splendor and a population estimated to be our 1 million free citizens and slaves.
- There is now a New Testament church to which Paul is writing; imagine this spiritual island awash in the sin, idolatry, and wickedness of ancient Rome.
  - These believers were snatched by God out of the fire and placed in Christ by the grace of God.
  - They are not living in the Bible belt of Italy and face stiff opposition in a variety of forms.
  - Yet Paul is helping them come to terms with their new life:
    - To understand the Gospel.
    - To pursue this new life in Christ
    - To understand holiness
    - To take practical steps towards sanctification.
- We live in an evil world system that is anti-God, anti-family, anti-truth, and this is seen in education, business, music, entertainment, media, and news.
- How do we not blend in and stand differently?

## I. The Negative Prohibition (Romans 1:12-13a)

**Romans 6:12–13**, *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, . . .*

- A. Do not let sin reign in your mortal body (Romans 6:12).
  - 1. We are dead to the reign of sin (Romans 6:1-10), but the reign of sin is not dead to us.
    - a) Sin is always looking for ways to re-establish itself in our life.
  - 2. Do not – this is an imperative command
    - a) Take decisive steps.
    - b) Sin comes after us to take us down.
  - 3. Reign
    - a) **to reign as king** v. — to rule as a king or supreme ruler over a nation, or to become ruler or supreme ruler over a nation.
  - 4. Your Mortal Body – (impacted by sin's curse; decaying; dying). Emphasizes the need for glorification.
    - a) **Romans 8:22–23**, *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*
    - b) Our minds, eyes, ears, tongue, hands, feet, are all impacted by sin and corrupted. To obey the body's passion displaces our affection for God!
- B. Do not present your members to sin (Romans 6:13a)
  - 1. Do not – again, this an imperative command.

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2. Present - **to offer** v. — to make available or accessible; provide or furnish.
  3. Your Members – (Mind, Eyes, Feet, Ears, Tongue, Hands.)
    - a) To Sin – as a slave master doling out payment with death and decay.
    - b) As Instruments - **implement** n. — any instrumentation (a piece of equipment or tool) used to effect an end; often collective. Carries the idea of weapons of warfare.
      - (1) Before salvation – we were in agreement with sin.
      - (2) After salvation – we are now in a spiritual war against the realm of sin.
        - (a) Resist sinful lusts
        - (b) Resist following the world's system.
        - (c) Resist going with the flow of others.

## II. The Positive Presentation (Romans 6:13b)

**Romans 6:13**, . . . . *but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.*

- A. Present Yourself to God (this is a sharp contrast)
  1. Present is used in the sacrificial system when the priest would take the animal, kill it, and present it on the altar. (**Romans 12:1**, *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*)
  2. This presentation is what God is asking us to do as believers and followers of Christ.
    - a) It is a decisive, intentional, and purposeful action on our part.
    - b) As those brought from death to life: living, resurrected, redeemed.
    - c) Note, there is no third option.
- B. Present Your Members to God as Instruments for righteousness

## III. The Spiritual Explanation (Romans 6:14)

**Romans 6:14**, *For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

- A. Sinful desires do not have dominion over you. That is a promise you can count on.
  1. Dominion - **to dominate (completely)** v. — to exercise control over someone as his master.
  - 2.
- B. Since you are not under law but under grace.
  1. Under Law – trying to keep it in order to find acceptance with God (We cannot overcome the reign of sin in our flesh)
  2. Under Grace: grace does not set us free to live our own life without God (Romans 5:21)
    - a) Grace empowers us to live a godly life.
    - b) The reign of grace brings God's chastisement, discipline, and even an early death.
    - c) Jesus Christ is your Lord and Master, you are not free to do your own thing.

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## V. Footnote on Romans 6:13:

- A. Your Mind – everything begins with the mind (not emotions). Emotions are a response to our minds.
1. Present our minds to the truth of Scripture (read, study, meditate) taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ
    - a) **Colossians 3:16**, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*
    - b) **Philippians 4:8**, *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*
    - c) **Romans 12:1–2**, *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
    - d) **Ephesians 4:23**, *And to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,*
    - e) **2 Corinthians 10:5**, *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,*
- B. Your Eyes (The Negative & Positive)
1. What do we gaze upon; linger with a long look.
  2. **Genesis 3:6**, *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*
  3. Many sins begin with a second look.
  4. **1 John 2:16**, *For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*
  5. **Matthew 5:28–29**, *But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.*
  6. Instead, see people who need the Gospel and opportunities to minister and serve people.
- C. Your Ears (Acts 7:51,57)
1. Avoid False Teaching **2 Timothy 4:3–4**, *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*
  2. Avoid Slander & Avoid Gossiping
  3. Avoid Negativity and whining **1 Timothy 6:20**, *O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,”*
  4. Speak Scripture! **Ecclesiastes 5:1**, *Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.*
- D. Your Tongue
1. **Ecclesiastes 5:2**, *Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.*
  2. **Proverbs 10:19**, *When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.*
  3. **Proverbs 17:27**, *Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.*
  4. **Ephesians 4:29**, *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*
  5. **Ephesians 5:4**, *Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.*
  6. **James 3:2**, *For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.*
  7. Speak up for Christ; give thanks; witness the Gospel; Praise; encourage; ask questions.
- E. Feet

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1. Good places or the wrong places (Romans 10.15)
- F. Hands
1. **Luke 9:62**, *Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."*
  2. **Matthew 5:30**, *And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.*
  3. **Ephesians 4:28**, *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*
  4. **1 Thessalonians 4:11**, *And to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,*
- G. **Philippians 2:13**, *For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*