

# Under Grace!

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Romans 6:15-19

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**Romans 6:15–19**, *What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.*

- Our guaranteed sanctification (Romans 8:30).
- Our guaranteed hatred of sin (face the world, flesh, devil) (desire to grow in grace) (the position to conquer sin) (through union with Christ)

## I. The Repeated Question (Romans 6:15)

**Romans 6:15**, *What then? Are we to sin {deliberate, persistent sin, a lifestyle choice of sin; 1 John 3:8-9} because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!*

- A. The principle taught: Under law? Or, under grace? Either way, authority is present.
  1. **Jude 4**, *For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*
    - a) **Pervert** – literally “replace” to exchange or replace with another, usually of the same kind or category.
    - b) **Grace** – in this sense “grace” speaks to the results or consequences (outworking).
    - c) **Sensuality** – indulgence in sensual pleasure unrestrained by convention or morality
    - d) **Deny** – refuse to recognize or acknowledge (contradict)
    - e) **Master & Lord** – one who has authority over slaves or subjects.
- B. The personalization implied: Do we hate sin as God hates sin?
  1. God forbid! May it not be so! By no means!

## II. The General Argument (Romans 6:16)

**Romans 6:16**, *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

- A. **Do you not know** – (6:3, 6, 9)
- B. **Present** – offer, provide, furnish, present – shades of Old Testament sacrificial offering. (Rom 6:13, 16, 19; 12:1)
- C. **Slaves** (Gk. *doulos*) (much stronger word than “servants” which implies a voluntary submission or hire) - The Roman institution of being a “bondservant” was different from the institution of slavery in North America during the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. Slaves generally were permitted to work for pay and to save enough to buy their freedom.
- D. **Righteousness** – Why righteousness and not life? Obedience does not produce eternal life (salvation by works/obedience). (**Ephesians 2:10**, *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

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1. We become slave (*doulos*) to either sin (death) or obedience (righteousness) which ever we “present” to. The power we submit to decides what I do and what I am.
  2. There are two powers and only two powers (sin and obedience) (from Romans 5:12)
  3. These two powers are complete opposite and diametrically opposed to one another.
  4. We cannot have two masters at the same time (You cannot be a slave to grace and live (continue) in sin) (**Matthew 6:24**, “*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*”
  5. Through this behavior, we proclaim what we are; not by who we say we are.
    - a) **Matthew 7:15–23**, “*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. 21 ‘Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*”
    - b) **John 8:30–47**, *As he was saying these things, many believed in him. 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. 38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” 39 They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” 42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”*
    - c) **1 John 1:6**, “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”
    - d) **1 John 2:4**, *Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,*

### III. The Practical Application (Romans 6:17-18)

### IV. The Appeal to Righteousness (Romans 6:19)