

Under Grace!

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Romans 6:15-19 (Part 2)

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.*

General principles for this passage:

1. There are two great powers anxious to dominate our lives, from which mankind has no autonomy and they are diametrically opposed to one another.
2. It is impossible to be under the influence of these two powers simultaneously.
3. A person declares by his lifestyle who his master is (Romans 6:16).

I. A New Mold for Your Life (6:17)

- A. The Gratitude - (6:17, “*thanks be to God*”) It is God alone who delivers us from the Kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light. This thankfulness is as thankfulness presented to a deity, beyond a simple, “Thanks.” It is thanksgiving that the deity alone could deliver and has chosen to deliver us! (Romans 7:25)
1. For transformation (6:17, “*who were*” “*slaves to sin*”)
 - a) The new birth is essential (John 3:3,7)
 - b) Regeneration is essential (new creation; not addition, but transformation; 2 Cor 5:17)
 - c) Redemption is essential (“you who were once slaves of sin”). Your salvation was paid in full AND purchased you in full (mind, will, emotions, etc.)
 2. For Obedience (6:17, “*obedient from the heart*”) From within; not just exterior.
 - a) To the teaching
 - (1) To the standard of teaching (doctrine). Poured into a Biblical mold to live out the patterns of what you believe (It is about what you, as much as what you don’t do!) It is teaching that you have submitted yourself to and has reshaped you; stamped you!
 - b) To the commitment
 - (1) **2 Timothy 1:13–14**, *Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.*
 - (2) **Titus 2:2**, *Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.*
 - (a) Sound – uncorrupted; whole; be healthy; no flies in the ointment.

II. A New Master Over Your Life (6:18)

- A. The allusion of autonomy – the right or condition of self-government (free, independent, sovereign) (Romans 3:10-18 is a reminder of our lost condition and our total depravity).
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B. A freedom from past bondage (6:18a)

1. Saved people have been saved from bondage to sin (involuntary forced dominance of sin)
 - a) “...*who were once slaves to sin...*” (Romans 6:17)
 - b) “...*set free from sin...*” (Romans 6:18)
 - c) “*But now that you have been set free from sin...*” (Romans 6:22)
 - d) How can you say they are slaves to sin? What is the proof? Martyn Lloyd Jones said it simply, “*The answer is that they are not allowed to believe.*”
 - (1) They are blinded. **2 Corinthians 4:3–4**, *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 - (2) They are suppressors of truth. **Romans 1:18–19**, *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*
 - (3) They are conscience of lawlessness. **Romans 2:14–16**, *For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.*

C. A slave to a new master (Romans 6:18b)

1. You have never been “free.”
2. We are now “free” to please God by our obedience, something that we could never do before.
3. 2 Corinthians 3:14-4:6
4. Spiritual Transformation (Spiritual Regeneration (New Birth) – Conversion (Repentance & Faith) – Justification - Sanctification – Glorification)

III. A New Manner Manifested in Your Life (Romans 6:19)

A. A limited understanding – humanness impacted by sin

B. Past jurisdiction

1. Impurity – immorality understood especially as dirty or impure; especially used of sexual sins.
2. Lawlessness - open defiance to the law.

C. Present Jurisdiction

1. Present your members (offering)
2. You sin less; but feel worse. Romans 7:21-24