

Title: Now Slaves to God

Text: Romans 6:15-23 Date: July 20, 2025

Romans 6:14 sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

"sin shall not be master over you" – lord over, rule over.

Romans 7:5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

"under law": to exist under the condemning verdict of the law and be held as guilty to its unbending standards.

"under grace": to exist under the saving grace of God that saves from condemnation and frees from the burden of law that constrains to sin.

Our New Life Under Grace:

1. The _____: being under grace means one can freely remain living in sin (v.15-16).

Romans 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

Essence of the question: Can we remain in sin because we are no longer under the law which condemns sin but under grace which saves from sin?

"May it never be" - same response as v.2.

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that when you go on presenting yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

"do you not know" – like v.3.

Action: "when you go on presenting to someone as slaves for obedience" – to stand near or come before to obey.

Reality: "you are slaves of the one whom you obey" - who or what you present yourself to, intending to obey, is who or what you are a slave to.

Two masters with two results:

- "either of sin leading to death"
- "or of obedience leading to righteousness"

2. The _____: once slaves of sin, now slaves to righteousness (v.17-18).

Romans 6:17–18 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were given over, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

"But thanks be to God" – praise, gratitude, and acknowledgement be to God.

"though you were slaves of sin" – a real past condition.

What changed?

1. We heard the truth and ______ from our heart according to the work of God.

"you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching" - to obey simply means to give ear to and respond accordingly.

"that pattern of teaching" - a type of teaching that is like another or according to a pattern or example.

"you were given over" - believers were given over to this truth (not the truth given to them) by God to obey.

2. We were ______ from sin and enslaved to righteousness.

"having been freed" - liberated from our previous position and condition under sin as master.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

"you became slaves of righteousness" - removed from bondage to sin and transferred to the ownership and purpose of righteousness.

3. The New Life _____: no longer impurity and lawlessness, but sanctification (v.19-20).

Romans 6:19a I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.

"I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh" - this phrase was used in Rom. 3:5. Paul is stooping down to ensure understanding of his point through the slave/master analogy and to avoid any confusion.

Romans 6:19b For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, leading to further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

"your members" – lit. your limbs your parts of your body. Our members can be instruments/weapons for sin (6:13).

"impurity" – not clean, that which is contaminated, dirty. "lawlessness" – without law or against law.

Slavery to these two things led "to lawlessness" – to more lawlessness (increasing).

"so now" – at the present moment and in this way.

"present" – a command to go before in order to obey (same idea as v.16).

"slaves to righteousness" – v.18 we became slaves to righteousness, now Paul commands them to present themselves before righteousness.

"leading to sanctification" – greater conformity to the character of God and separateness unto God as His own.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–4, 7 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, for God did not call us to impurity, but in sanctification.

Romans 6:20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

"when" - temporal; back to previous condition.

"you were slaves of sin" – imperfect tense; owned by and adherent to sin as a master (unsaved).

"you were free to righteousness" – not a good freedom but a bad freedom.

4. The ______ of our New Position: no longer death but eternal life in Christ (v.21-23).

Romans 6:21 Therefore what benefit were you then having from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

"what benefit were you then having from the things of which you are now ashamed?" – Paul shifts to ask what good fruit, came out from their former acts in slavery to sin.

"For the end of those things is death" – the consummation, fulfillment of the deeds of impurity and lawlessness is death.

Romans 6:22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit, leading to sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

"But now" - a temporal shift from then to now.

"and enslaved to God" – changed from "to righteousness" to "to God." the transferal of the believers from being under the mastery and ownership of sin to now belonging to God.

"you have" – to hold or possess; we have now because of new position.

"your benefit" – your fruit; something to enjoy, delight in, be blessed by; in contrast to v.21.

"leading to sanctification" - conformity and dedication to God.

"and at the end, eternal life" – the end (consummation, fulfillment) of being freed from sin and enslaved to God, is eternal life.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"the wages of sin is death" – the payment and recompense that sin gives is death.

"but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" – eternal life is not given as payment, but as God's gracious gift in Christ Jesus.

Where do we go from Romans 6?

_____ your members as slaves to righteousness because living in sin makes no sense to those who belong to a righteous God and have received eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. Explain what Paul means by "you are not under law but under grace." What does that statement not mean?
- 2. Read Romans 6:17-18. What does Paul mean that they "obeyed from the heart to that pattern of teaching?" In what way are believers "freed from sin?"
- 3. Why do you think popular evangelical culture focuses on the being freed from sin result of salvation and not the became slaves of righteousness result?
- 4. Paul's only command in this passage is found in v.19 to "present" your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification. What does Paul mean by that command? How does that look in daily practice?
- 5. Read 6:21-22. Why is it important to know the real "fruit" of sin? How does knowing the "fruit" of our new position in Christ help us not present our members to sin but to righteousness?



Blanks: Misconception, Change, obeyed, liberated, Now, Benefit, Present.