

ROM 212 - The "Our-Part" of Sanctification - Rom 6:15-23

Today - we're going to **talk** about
the **"Our-Part" Part** of **Sanctification**

But before I explain the **"Our-Part Part"**
I **need to start** by defining the word **Sanctification**

This is a **Critically Important Word** for the Christian Life

In fact - the process of **Sanctification** takes up
the **largest amount** of **time**
in our life with Christ here on this earth

Simply Stated:
Sanctification is the transformation of your life, here & now

Remember - there are **THREE CRITICAL - "TION" - words:**
Justification - when you were **Saved**
Sanctification - the **Transforming** of your life now
Glorification - your **Eternal Life** with Jesus Christ

Justification (the 1st step) came thru your faith Alone
You just put your Faith in Christ alone
and BAAM - you were Justified

When you put your **Faith** in **Jesus Christ** . . .

RIGHT THEN - you were Justified (Declared Righteous)
thru your Identification with Christ by

It's done, it's complete - **THAT** is your **Position** in Christ

That's exactly what we saw **in our last msg** (*get it*)

Glorification (the 3rd step) also happens pretty **quickly**

If Jesus Christ is your **Lord** today
as soon as you **stop breathing**
you're going to be **Glorified** and in His **Presence**

So, **from your standpoint** - that's a **pretty QUICK step**

So - - You're **Justified in an instant**
the moment you *truly put your faith* in Christ

& you're **Glorified in an instant**
the moment you *stop breathing*

But Ohhhh that **SANCTIFICATION part (that 2nd step)**

Well . . .that part lasts your **ENTIRE LIFE** here on earth -

Sanctification - is much more of a **PROCESS**
than **either** of the other **2 steps**

This "Process" of Sanctification is **so important** - I need to use
a couple **Bible Dictionaries** to lay a foundation

Easton's Bible Dictionary;

Sanctification: it is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing [your] whole nature more and more under the influences of the new gracious principles implanted in the soul in regeneration.

In other words, **sanctification is the carrying on to perfection the work begun in regeneration**, and it extends to the whole man

It is the **special office of the Holy Spirit** in the plan of redemption to carry on this work

New Bible Dictionary (Intervarsity Press)

Since in and with Christ [believers] have died to the lordship of sin, they are now to live lives which reflect their new relationship to God as sharers in Christ's risen life.

. . . Paul considers the sanctified life to be possible because of the indwelling presence of God's empowering Spirit.

. . . the Spirit's presence does not confer final perfection in the present age but rather leads to growing maturity in Christ,

Carrying on the work that God started at salvation

Living lives that reflect our Identification with Christ

Growing in Maturity in Christ

THAT - is the Process of Sanctification

& notice Carefully - It is the Work of the Holy Spirit
Living in us & Empowering us - that makes this possible

Without the Holy Spirit - there's NOT ENUF TRY IN US !

HOWEVER !!! - There IS an "Our-Part" Part

& THAT'S what we're going to deal with today !

Let's Pray

SANCTIFICATION is

moving our POSITION - To our PRACTICE

It's Converting

who we ARE in Christ - to how we LIVE in Christ

& the **OUR-PART PART** to this happening in our lives

Is what makes the difference between;

a person who's **said the prayer** but nothing's changed
& the person who's life is actually **Radically Transformed**

In **our last msg** - We **saw** the incredible truth
that **BECAUSE** we are **identified** with Christ thru **Faith**

We are Positionally Dead to Sin - & Alive to God IN CHRIST

& because of that truth - **we ended** our last msg
with the **Logical Conclusion** that **started in V.12**

Rom 6:12 - ESV

12 Let not sin therefore [therefore - because of your identification with Christ] reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.

The NLT says here in V.12

12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

WHY ??? - - NOT BECAUSE you're trying to be **Religious**
or **Earn** something from God . . .

But **BECAUSE** you've been **so Identified** with Jesus Christ
that it would be an **Obvious CONFLICT**
to be **One** with Christ - - **AND** be **letting sin** control your life

But right here (**Rom 6:12**) - We see the **"Our-Part" Part**
of the **Sanctification Process**

That is - **Not letting Sin control the way you live,**
not giving in to sinful desires

But **right there** is where the **PROBLEM** comes in - **BECAUSE**
Not letting Sin control the way you live
involves YOU Making a CHOICE

in fact - it is a constant **day-to-day**, moment by moment **CHOICE**

& **THAT** is the **"OUR PART" PART** - of the **Sanctification** process

Now - **Paul starts** our section today -
with the same **crazy question** he started last msg with

A question that makes **reference**
to the **constant choices** we have in the **Christian life**

Rom 6:15 - ESV

***15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but
under grace? By no means!***

does the grace we've been **given** - thru our Identification with Christ
give us **license to sin** - **OF COURSE NOT** - **BY NO MEANS**

& Now - Paul is going to **refute** that **crazy question**

& **in doing so** - he's going to **explain**
the **"Our-Part" part** of the **Sanctification** Process

& he's going to use the very powerful metaphor of SLAVERY to do it

At the time this Ltr was written - Population of Rom was 1/3 slaves and many of the free men had once been slaves

It's likely that more than one-half of the Roman church either were slaves - or had been slaves

So the mention of slavery got his readers attention & it should get ours

Now - before we dive into this metaphor of Slavery I need you to hear this critical KEY statement

Obedience is the unmistakable mark of slavery.
Obedience is the unmistakable mark of slavery.

That which we habitually obey – we are a slave to

The Materialistic are slaves to their possessions
The Workaholics are slaves to their work
The Angry are slaves to their tempers
The Sexual are slaves to their bodies
The Addicted are slaves to their chemical

That which we habitually obey – we are a slave to

& this understanding of Slavery - is the Key to the "Our-Part" part of our lives being Transformed in Christ today

Rom 6:16 - ESV → →

Rom 6:16 - ESV

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?

The **Greek word** translated “**slave**” here is “**doulos**”

it means **LIT - Bondservant**

Most commonly described as a '**Slave By Choice**'

In the OT - a person was **generally**
only **required** to be a Slave for **6 years**

However, if after 6 years **they realized** that being a **Slave**
to this **master** was actually their **best life**

they **could choose** to become a "**BondSlave**" - a **Slave by Choice** -
symbolized by **an earring** - put in at the **door-post**

Here is the Formal Definition of Doulos:

One in bondage to, or subject to, another. Often the service is voluntary, in which a person willingly offers obedience, devotion, and loyalty to another, subordinating his will to the other.

You & I are **BondSlaves** to that which we **CHOOSE** to **OBEY**

EITHER - “***sin, which leads to death***”

OR - “***obedience, which leads to righteousness.***”

We've **all been subject** to the **first** slavery
the **slavery of sin**, which leads to **death** . . .

But now - Because of our **identification** with Jesus Christ
We no longer **HAVE TO BE** Slaves of **SIN** leading to death

Because of our **Identification** with Jesus Christ

We are **now called** to be **Slaves of Obedience**
which leads to **Righteousness**

No longer should **SIN** be our master

but our **NEW** master should be **Jesus Christ** & His **Righteousness**

& instead of Choosing the **Slavery of Sin** leading to death,

We can now Choose **the Slavery** that brings **Freedom from Sin**
& leads to **true life**, both **now** & for **eternity**

But Remember;

Obedience is the unmistakable mark of slavery.

IT IS OUR OBEDIENCE to **SIN** - that makes **Sin** our Master

IT IS OUR OBEDIENCE to **CHRIST** that makes **Christ** our Master

AND NOW - here is the Most Incredible Part . . .

THE WAY - we are **SET FREE** from the Bondage of **Sin**
is Simply **By CHANGING** Masters

Thru **our identification** w/ Jesus Christ

We've **DIED** to the Old Slave master called **SIN**

But Now - We **must BECOME** a **BondSlave** to God - -
We must Change Masters

It is actually a **NEW Slavery** to **Christ**
that brings us **TRUE Freedom** from the **OLD Slavery** of **Sin**

Bob Dylan said it well - when he said

*"YOU GOTTA SERVE SOMEBODY - It might be the Devil,
or it might be the Lord, but you gotta serve somebody"*

TODAY - we are **EITHER** serving sin - leading to death,
or we are serving Jesus Christ - leading to life

& **HERE** is the Key to beginning that **Transformation**

To be **SET-FREE** from Slavery to **Sin**
we must **become** a **BondSlave** (slave by choice) to **Jesus Christ**

THAT is the truth that will **truly** set you free.

Jesus said in Jn 8:31-32

*31 . . . "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."*

The Truth - of **Abiding** in **Jesus Christ** & in His **Word**
is the Secret to being **Truly Set Free** from the Power of **Sin**

Paul **explains this perfectly** in the Next **Two Vs's**

Rom 6:17-18 - ESV

*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.*

These are **Two HUGE Vs's** - so let's break them down . . .

Again - Rom 6:17 says - ESV

17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin

This is what we once WERE - "*slaves of sin*" - BUT NOW we . . .
have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

The phrase "**standard of teaching**"
refers to a **specific pattern** of teaching

F. F. Bruce says;

"This probably refers to the summary of the teachings of Christ, which was regularly given to new believers in the early church"

In other words, this "**obedience from the heart**" was **not just**
a **vague acknowledgement** of God

It was a *Commitment from the Heart* - to the "**standard of teaching**"
that they'd received **about Jesus Christ**

They realized - their **identification** with Jesus Christ
meant **obedience from the heart** - to a new **Master**

& so (**V.18 says**) - ***Having been set free from sin - you have become slaves of Righteousness***

See the Progression;

Once **Slaves** of sin

Then **Obedient** to Jesus Christ

Then **Set Free** from Sin - **By becoming** Slaves of **Righteousness**

The **ONLY way** that you will be **set free** from a life of **Sin** is by **becoming** a **BondSlave** of Jesus Christ

By **Obeying from the Heart**
the truths we've learned about **Jesus Christ**

To **be Transformed** in this Life
To **Break the Bondage** of **sin** that leads to **death** . . .

You **must** wholly **surrender** to a **New Slavery**
that **requires obedience** from the **center of your being** (*your heart*)

But **this is NOT** the bad news of **Religion**

This is the Good News of an **Intimate Relationship**
that **Frees you** from **Sin & Death** !

The **Greek word** for “obey” (4 times in V.16-17) - is “**hupakouo**”

Definition of "hupakuo" (obey):

To submit without reservation. Used particularly of servants who were attentive to the requests made of them, & who complied. The word contains the idea of hearing, responding, & obeying. [REPEAT LAST SENTENCE]

Do you **hear, respond & obey** – to your master named **SIN**?
Or do you **hear, respond, & obey** to your master named **JESUS**?

I promise you - The secret to being set free from sin

Is to **become** a **slave to righteousness**
where you **OBEY** (hupakuo) - ***from the heart***

AGAIN Rom 6:18 says - ESV

18 and, having been set free from sin, [you] have become slaves of righteousness.

If, today, you want to be **set free** from **sin**,

Then, today, you must become a **slave to righteousness**,

In **obedience from your heart** - to **Jesus Christ** as your **New Master**

& **THAT** is **exactly** what Paul calls us to in **V.19**

Rom 6:19 - ESV

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.

Simply Put - what sets you **FREE from** sin

Is taking **that level** of obedience you had **TO SIN**

& applying **that same level** of obedience **TO** JESUS CHRIST

V.19 is a powerful call to **SLAVERY**

a call to total **obligation**, total **commitment**, total **accountability**.

The problem is -

This **level** of **Obedience** is **not** very popular today

Sometimes - what we prefer - is "**cheap grace**"

Cheap grace, is grace that *tries to receive*
salvation from sin - - without **repentance** from sin

Cheap grace is us trying to **receive the benefits** of God's Grace
without having to **Switch Masters**

Cheap Grace is thinking we can **go to heaven** someday -
but **still get to remain** a **slave** to our **sin** today

Cheap grace will **never free us** from the power & control of **sin**

& **sin** - as long as it is our **Master**
will always **bring destruction** & **death** into our lives

It is **only when** we truly **Switch Masters** - once & for all

When we finally **Renounce Sin** as our master
& **throw ourselves** completely under the **slaveship** of **Jesus Christ**

That - **Then**, like a flood, the **new, abundant, victorious** life
pours into us by the Holy Spirit - & we are **Transformed**

& **It's then** that we **understand** that the **new life** IN CHRIST
is the only **true life**

PLUS - **Cheap grace** actually brings about **limbo slavery**
that's **the worst** of all

Limbo Slavery - is the person who's **made a commitment** to Jesus
but then **refused** to become a **BondServant** to Jesus

They've **Refused** to actually **obey** Christ as their **LORD**

This person thinks he can have the **best of both worlds**

The **Grace** of God for **salvation**
AND the enjoyment of **Sin** for season

But this **Limbo Slave** - is in the **worst position** of all

Because of the Life of Christ in Him
he can **never** really **enjoy** sin

because the **Holy Spirit** is **convicting** him
& **the Lord is** using sins **consequences** to bring him back

So - He **can't even enjoy** the fleeting **pleasures** of sin

AND - he certainly **can't enjoy** the incredible **benefits**
of the **Abundant Life** that comes from **walking with Jesus**

He **can't enjoy** the **peace** that *passes understanding*
or the **joy** that comes *from the Holy Spirit overflowing* in him

And he **can't enjoy** the **intimate fellowship** with his Creator
that his **New Life in Christ** yearns to have

& so - **The Limbo Slave**
CAN'T enjoy Sin - & He **CAN'T** enjoy God

which is the **WORST** condition of ALL

Being a True - Sold Out - Bond-Servant to Christ
is the only **True Abundant Life**

& **Slavery to God** is the only **True Freedom** from sin

Now - Let's take just a minute - & look back on the supposed freedom we had - when SIN was our Master

Rom 6:20-21 - ESV

20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death.

When you were a slave to sin

it's true - you were Free in regard to Righteousness

But what Fruit were you receiving at that time -

what result were you getting from your sin

The end result of those things - IS DEATH (V.21)

But Now, Let's look at the benefits of our New Slavery to God

Rom 6:22 - ESV

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification [being transformed] and its end, eternal life.

Becoming a Bond-Slave to God;

- 1) Sets you free from sin
- 2) Transforms your Life now - & *best of all*
- 3) Leads to your eternal life

Those are the benefits of being a BondSlave to Jesus Christ

the **Power to overcome** the old master of sin
the **Abundant Transformed** Life Christ promised
the **Glory of Eternal life** with God in Heaven

OOORRR **We can choose**
to **continue** to serve **Sin** - - leading to **Destruction & Death**

Now - Paul is going to "**Sum Up**" this **entire teaching** on slavery
with a **Famous Verse** that's most often used for **Salvation** . .

But **this Vs.** is **Actually** about our **Slavery**
& **more specifically** - it's about **the results** of
WHICH slavery we **Choose**

Either Slavery to **SIN** - Or Slavery to **GOD**

Rom 6:23 - ESV

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

The **old slave-master** pays wages - - **DEATH**
But the **new slave-master** **doesn't** pay wages

The **FREE GIFT** of God, your **New Slave Master**
is **Eternal Life** in Christ Jesus our Lord

So - - - **Let's Review** → →

(Review)

Justification must come first

Thru our Identification with Jesus Christ
By His Grace, & through our Faith Alone

After Justification - Comes Sanctification
which is the Transformation of our life here & now

& our Bondservant Obedience
is **the key** to the Transformation of our life
& it is **the Key** to our Freedom from sin

Eternal life comes through our *Identification with Christ*
Transformation comes through our *Obedience to Christ*

& if you'll stay with me - in the next Few Messages . . .

We'll see that our Transformation comes Supernaturally,
thru the power of the Holy Spirit

Because - as we'll see next week
There's Not enough TRY in us - to do it on our own

But even tho it is the Holy Spirit that transforms us . . .

There **IS** an "Our Part" Part

"Our Part" - is making the choice
to make Jesus Christ the True Lord of our lives

"Our Part" - is making the choice
to become a Bond-Slave to Jesus Christ

To present ALL that we are - To HIM as our Master

& then - when we get to Rom Ch 8 - we'll see . . .

He gives us ALL the Power we need to be Transformed
in the Person of the Holy Spirit

"Our Part" - is to Simply make the CHOICE
WHO are we going to SERVE

Sin - *Leading to Death*

Righteousness - *Leading to Transformation & Eternal Life*

Let's Pray

We present ourselves to God as Bond-Slaves - we present our members - all of ourselves - to him as willing Bond-Servants - & THEN, our true end (spiritually) is attained - Our heart & life becomes united to God - we begin - in our actually "practice" - to Die to self & Live to God - & when we really surrender as Bond-Slaves into the hands of God - True, abundant life fruit begins to issue forth in our lives - We begin to experience the "Sanctified" life, truly being set-apart from this world - into an ever-deepening experience of God's Love, His Power, & His Will

& truly - THIS is the abundant life that Jesus spoke of in Jn 10:10 - true life, & that more abundant - The abundant life we can live here as Bond-Servants of Jesus Christ - is the first fruits, the first taste, of our eternal with Christ - As we are "possessed" by the Lord - we know Him

more intimately, We enjoy Him more deeply, & we are used by Him more powerfully

THOSE are the true rewards of us becoming Bond-Slave's to Jesus Christ

Those are such powerful truths about the Secret to the abundant life here and now - BUUTTT The Holy Spirit's not Done YET !