

THE GRACE OF GOD

“We are freed from sin and slaves to God”

Romans 6:15–6:23

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Big idea: Enslavement to sin results in shame and eternal death, but enslavement to God results in sanctification and eternal life.

Two related questions:

(1) “Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound (6:1b)?”

We may think the more we sin, the more God’s grace increases.

Answer: (6:2-14) We are free not to sin because of our union with Christ.

We are dead to sin, alive to God.

(2) “Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace (6:15b)?”

We may think that since we are no longer under law, we don’t have to obey God’s Word.

Answer: (6:16-23) We are free not to sin because we are enslaved to God.

We are free from sin and slaves to God.

Read Passage

I. Everyone serves a master (6:16).

A. You are a slave to the master you obey (v. 16a).

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey,

B. Being enslaved to sin leads to death (v. 16b).

either of sin, which leads to death,

C. Being enslaved to obedience leads to righteousness (v. 16c).

or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

II. By God’s grace we have changed masters (6:17-18).

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.

Four stages:

A. We were slaves to sin (v. 17a).

“that you who were once slaves of sin”

B. We surrendered to the Lord (v. 17b).

“have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,”

Romans 1:5

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations

C. We were set free from sin (v. 18a).

18a and, having been set free from sin,

D. We became slaves of righteousness (v. 18b).

“have become slaves of righteousness.”

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

III. We must present ourselves to righteousness (v. 19).

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.

Paul now draws an analogy between the two:

A. Sin leads to a deterioration (v. 19b).

For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness,

Galatians 6:8

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

B. Righteousness leads to sanctification (v. 19c).

so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

God has freed us from the tyranny of sin; therefore we should now present our members as slaves to righteousness.

IV. We must serve God and not sin (6:20-23).

20 For 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? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Each freedom is a kind of slavery:

A. Those who are free from righteousness are inevitably slaves to sin (v. 20).

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

B. Those who are free from sin are inevitably slaves to God.

1 Peter 2:16

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

Freedom for a believer is not freedom to do what you want, but freedom to obey God willingly, joyfully, and enthusiastically.

Status

- (v. 21) "then": slaves of sin, free from righteousness
- (v. 22) "now": free from sin, slaves of God

Result

- "fruit": bringing shame
- "fruit": bringing sanctification

Outcome

- death
- eternal life

Bottom line:

- (v. 23a) - The wages of sin is death – We get what we deserve.
- (v. 23b) - The free gift of God is eternal life – We receive what we don't deserve.

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Benediction: Romans 10:9-10