

Encounter Church Sermon Notes

August 16, 2026 — Pastor John Vernon



Freed to Righteous Living

Romans 6:15-23

1 — Romans 6:15-23

15 Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! 16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. 17 Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. 18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. 19 Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. 22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

2

"manumitted" = Freed from bondage or ownership of another person

From Latin words

- Manus = hand
- Matere = to let go or send

3 — Romans 6:14

14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

4 — Romans 6:15

15 Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not!

5 — Romans 6:1

1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace?

6 — Romans 6:16

16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

7 — Romans 6:16

16 Don't you realize...

8 — Romans 6:16

16 ...that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey

9 — Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

10 — 2 Peter 2:18-19

18 They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting...they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. 19 They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you.

11 — Matthew 6:24

24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other.”

12 — Romans 6:17-18

17 Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. 18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

13 — John 6:44

44 For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me.

14 — Romans 6:17

17 ...wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you.

15 — Romans 6:19

19 Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

16 — Romans 6:19

19 ...I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this.

17 — Romans 6:17-18

17 ...you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. 18 ...you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

18 — Romans 6:19

19 ...Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

19 — Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“As you go on living this righteous life, and practicing it with all your might and energy, and all your time ... you will find that the process that went on before, in which you went on from bad to worse and became viler and viler, is entirely reversed. You will become cleaner and cleaner, and purer and purer, and holier and holier, and more and more conformed unto the image of the Son of God.”

— Martyn Lloyd-Jones

20 — Romans 6:20-22

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. 22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.

21 — Romans 6:23

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

22 — Ephesians 2:8-9

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

23

Christ welcomes those who are willing to be truly transformed by Him inwardly.

Christ's desire for us is that we exchange our sinfulness for His holiness.
