



JANUARY 25, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything ***Sin to Obedience***

Scripture: Romans 6:6–18; 1 Samuel 15; John 14:15

Summary: Jesus forgives our sin—He has the power and authority to do just that. He did it repeatedly and He continues to do it today. He even calls His followers to do the same, “forgive others and you will be forgiven” (**Matthew 6:14-15**). In Romans 6, Paul heightens conviction about sin and disobedience, highlighting the gospel motivation toward loving obedience.

Jesus commands all to sin no more. His life and mission shapes our lives toward joyful obedience with His teaching, His sacrifice and the continuing work of the Holy Spirit by conviction and guidance. In **Romans 6:12–14**, Paul declares that believers are no longer slaves to sin because we are no longer under law but under grace. This is not a license to continue in sin; it is the power to walk away from the practice of sin.

Past sins do not override present obedience or future usefulness because they are forgiven and remembered no more. Paul’s command, “Do not let sin control the way you live” (v.12), presupposes that through Christ, a real change of mastery has taken place. Satan is no longer our king and sin is no longer our practice. We are no longer bound to obey our old sinful desires because Jesus has set us free. The Greek idea behind “control” means “to reign as a king.” Sin once reigned over us, but now Christ reigns in us.

In verse 13, Paul shifts from resistance to surrender: “Give yourselves completely to God.” Grace does not merely say *no* to sin—it says *yes* to righteousness. Our hands, feet, minds, and bodies are no longer instruments of wickedness but instruments of God’s glory. **Obedience becomes the fruit of a transformed heart, not the price of salvation.**

Verse 14 anchors everything: "Sin is no longer your master... you live under the freedom of God's grace." Grace forgives us fully and empowers us daily. What the law could never do—change the heart—grace accomplishes through the indwelling Spirit. As Matthew Henry observed, grace does not merely pardon sin; it weakens its power and destroys its reign.

This is the miracle of the gospel: Jesus changes everything. He changes our standing before God and our walk with God. He does not leave us forgiven but unchanged—He makes us new. Where sin once ruled, Christ now reigns. Where disobedience once defined us, obedience now delights us.

Spotlight: Jesus forgives sin and empowers obedience.

I. To Be Crucified with Jesus is to Be Set Free From the Power of Sin (Romans 6: 6, 7; Galatians 2:20)

Romans 6:6–7 NLT

6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

Freedom comes from personal surrender to and union with Christ, not individual will power.

We are not fighting sin to become free—we are fighting sin because Christ has already made us free.

Romans 6:6 — *"our old self was crucified"* Greek: *co-crucified with Christ*
Not improved behavior. A decisive execution.

II. Obedience Breaks the Power of Sin and Reveals True Allegiance (Romans 6:16; John 14:15)

Romans 6:15 NLT

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.

John 14:15 NLT

If you love me, obey my commandments.

Obedience begins with the first step! Turn! Repent! Call on the name of the Lord for salvation! There is salvation in no one else.

Sin is never just a mistake. Eve blamed the serpent in the garden. Adam blamed Eve. Aaron blamed the people for the golden calf. King Saul blamed his men for the

plunder that was to be destroyed. Sin is submitting to a master trying to claim the throne where Jesus reigns.

You cannot serve two masters (**Matthew 6:24**). The one you serve now is the one you will see later.

III. Live in the Freedom of God's Grace (Romans 6:14)

Romans 6:14 NLT

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.

Obedience is not repayment for grace. It is the response of a heart that finds love, grace and forgiveness at the cross. Grace is the fuel of obedience not simply a feeling or an environment conducive to obedience.

I find that when my vehicle alerts me that I'm low on gas I stop at a gas station and fill up! I do this about once a week. I don't go very far on empty. I don't go very long without eating. Refueling on God's grace helps keep me in the center of His will.

IV. Warning Against Substitutes for Obedience (1 Samuel 15)

Jesus did not go to the cross so you could be *forgiven and stay enslaved to sin*.

NEXT STEPS:

Repentance isn't loss, it's gain — it's the doorway to salvation in Jesus and eternal life with God.