

Transformed Part 3

Romans 6:6-14 “Choose your Master”

Lying in a hospital bed, on the eve of his open heart surgery, Bruce McIver asked his cardiologist, “**Dr. Johnson, can you fix my heart?**”

Dudley Johnson is a skilled cardiologist, but he’s a man of few words. Known for getting right to the point, he said, “***Sure,***” and walked away.

After the 12 hour surgery, again McIver asked his doctor, “**In light of the blocked arteries you bypassed, how much more blood supply will I have now?**” Again Dr. Johnson gave a terse reply, “***All you’ll ever need.***”

Finally as Bruce was being discharged, his wife had a question for Dr. Johnson, “**How will surgery affect my husband’s future quality of life?**”

Dr. Johnson paused for a few seconds, and then he answered, “***Mrs. McIver, I fixed your husband’s heart. His quality of life is up to him...***”

The Same could be said of us who are believers in Jesus Christ!

A) Jesus has done a work to fix our hearts – in fact the Bible says that **He has given us a new Heart.**

B) But our quality of life has a lot to do with us – Choices we make.

1) If we are going to experience and live in the abundant life that Jesus promised {Choose....

C) Decide this question: Who or What are we going to give ourselves to?

D) That is exactly what Paul is wanting us to understand here in Romans Ch. 6

It starts with Identification:

A) Knowing Who you are in Christ.

B) Romans 5 Justified – Declared Righteous –

1) Ch. 1:3:20 The Doctrine of Salvation – Jason awesome Job expounding upon.

2) Ch. 3:21-Ch. 5 The Doctrine of Salvation – Justified – by faith – Christ’s Blood.

C) Ch. 6-8 – How do we enjoy that reality

Paul says: It starts with knowing Something – Who you are in Christ

A) New Identity: Justified – “Just as if you never sinned” – Righteous

B) **United – DEAD AND ALIVE:** Dead to sin – Alive in Christ

1) Dead to sin’s Penalty: Price has been paid – Penalty is no longer hanging over your head – no longer condemned.

2) Dead to sin’s Claim: Brought out of Adam – inherited sin gene – Placed into Christ

3) Dead to sin's Power: - No longer in bondage –

Know this: Old man Crucified with Christ.

A)his Power has been rendered inactive – Paralyzed
– No more Power – no longer addicted –

v.6 no longer slaves to sin. Sin no longer has to be
your Master. V. 7 Freed!

B)Know that – **V.12 Don't let sin Reign** – {Strong
word – **king and lord - don't let Sin be the Master
in your life anymore.**

1)Govern – dominate – { Some things – had a grip on
you – could not break free **TYRANNICAL**

C)But Now in Jesus – You are free – New life - His
life – New Power - His power is in you!

C)Paul says you need to know this: You need to
Believe this – You need to Embrace this.

Philippians 2:12-13

**“...work out your own salvation with fear and
trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to
will and to do for His good pleasure.”**

**God has done a work for You! – Lost in Sin – now
Saved! –**

A)Condemned to Hell – Now Justified – Declared
righteous

**B)God is doing a work IN You – given you Life, His
Spirit, His power – new Nature.**

1)**Work it out** – Like Muscles – exercise that truth –
put it to use.

C)Every human being is **born with Muscles** – They
just need to be worked – exercised.

1)Even a **98lb weakling has muscles** – just need to be
worked.

D)**Every Born again person** is brought into the
family of God with everything he/she needs to
experience abundant life.

1)But it needs to be worked out – put to use Applied -
APPLICATION

How? Two words – Reckon

A)**Reckon** – Believe this truth – embrace it – ADD it
up and ACT on it.

B)The power of the old man has been rendered in-
active in my life.

1)I don't have to give into temptation – I AM FREE!

C)Great story in the Old testament that illustrates
this point.

Judges 4 is that the Children of Israel had been in Bondage to the Canaanites for 30 yrs / intimidated / dominated & oppressed

- A) After **30 yrs of this they cried to the Lord** for mercy / and the Lord heard them and raised up a deliverer - woman named Deborah

- B) So under the Leadership of Deborah - the people of Israel engaged in battle against the army of the Canaanites who were led by General Sisera
 - 1) The Canaanites came out for the Battle - w/ 900 Chariots / which in those days was the equivalent of a **top of the line stuff.**

- C) The Israelites didn't even **have one Chariot** / they were greatly out numbered & out gunned /
 - 1) but the Lord was on their side / Victory

- D) During the battle when Israel started to have victory - **Sisera began to flee**
 - 1) He was running through the camp of the Israelites when he spotted a familiar face !
Woman named **Jael**

- E) **Jael & her husband Heber were canaanites who had defected over to the side of Israel yrs earlier /**

Well, Sisera sees Jael & recognizes her - runs up to her & says Jael you have got to hide me in your tent.

- A) Jael agrees to let him hide in the tent - but then the **old General / this guy who used to dominate** her, starts **ordering** her around

- B) Give me **something to drink** / stand watch at the door /
 - 1)if anyone ask if there is a man in here lie & tell them no !

- C) Well that is just like what the old man starts to do in our lives / tries to get his foot in the door / **starts to order us around** - /
 - 1) starts to demand that we satisfy him

- D) Listen to what Jael does next - Sisera the old General falls asleep & Jael comes up to him & Drives a **tent stake right through his head !**
 - 1) She Nailed the Old Gen. / literally

- E) That is what we are to do with the Old man – when Satan starts to tempt us
 - 1)Take the tent peg of truth – Who we are in Christ
What Jesus has done – Drive it in -

That is what Paul means in Ephesians 6 talks about having on the belt of truth!

1) Standing in the truth – Battling with the truth – the flesh gets the best of you.

C) Satan is there to say, see: Not really saved – no power – you are mine

1) Break out the tent peg of God's truth – No, I am a new creation in Christ – set free – Christ's power in me – His Spirit

2) You nail that old man –

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“...you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; “therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

You glorify God in your body and your Spirit by Presenting yourself to God.

Rom 6:12-14

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do *not present* your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, *but present* yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin

shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Two things being said here: Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead.

A) And **present your members** as instruments of righteousness to God.

B) **Present yourself:** Present your heart!

A) Everything is affected by the heart – **Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**

B) What we are passionate about in our hearts – we will pursue.

C) Prov 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

1) Our heart affects our thinking process.

So presenting ourselves to God starts with presenting our hearts

A) Being yielded to God from the heart - **V. 17 you obeyed *from the heart*** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

B) **Obedience from the heart-** Not just because I know it is right or I don't want to be affected by sin.

1) Obedience from the heart – **my heart is in it** – Because my heart has been touched by Jesus

C) **Submitted in my heart – Result** – everything else is going to follow and fall into place.

A) Heart is not right – everything else will be affected.

Again we see another great illustration of this in the OT - Book of Joshua

A) In the Promise land - the Lord said it is all yours

B) The Lord told Joshua to Possess the Land / *every place that the soul of your foot stops I have given to you*

C) In Ch. 5 we find Joshua out surveying the scene Jericho walls that were 100 ft high & 50 feet thick / battle strategy / runs into the Lord / read

13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" 14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" 15 Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

D) Joshua runs into this guy dressed in Battle array - Commander / Christophony / *For us or for our adversaries* / **NO** / wrong question !

E) **Are you for me !** / That was the issue / the secret to victory wasn't going to be in a **right strategy**

1) Not a formula – but submission

The secret to victory is not getting into the right program but it is being submitted to the right person.

A) Crazy – battle strategy – March **6 days once 7th day seven times – SHOUT**

B) Joshua had victory over Jericho because he presented himself to the Lord /

1) he submitted himself to the Lord's leadership !

C) Power was unleashed – **the enemy was subdued** and – there was not an Israelite who was going to take Credit – It was God.

D) Testimony was – **“We yielded ourselves to God and He did the rest!”**

Now sometimes we find ourselves like Joshua in dealing w/ sin !

A) We are out **looking for a strategy** - looking for a solution for victory

B) But in actuality the strategy has already been given to us / here in Ch. 6 of Romans !

1) Know - Dead to sin / Know old man rendered inactive

C) **Reckon it to be so !** And Present yourself to God

And your members - as instruments /as tools or weapons of righteousness !

1)See, Joshua had the **promise of Victory** over his enemies / but he needed to Yield himself to the Lord /

Now what is interesting: Going into the battle – God said – DON'T TAKE ANY SPOIL.

A) - There was one guy Achan, who sinned in what many would think was a small way –

B)He took some of the treasure.

A)Next battle – little village – Ai – small in comparison to Jericho

B)So small – we don't need the whole army – **They got wiped out.**

C)Why? **there was this area of compromise!** That area of compromise brought defeat.

1) Same thing can happen to us. One area – small, not a big deal – Compromise = loss of Power / blessing.

D)All you are doing is weakening your position and cutting off the flow of God's grace and blessing in your life.

1)Start dabbling in an area of Sin – HEART PROBLEM

So it starts with You being submitted, yielded – Presented to Jesus { YOUR HEART

A)But I like that Paul doesn't just speak in General terms but He gets very specific - and Present your members.

B)Members is My mind, my eyes, my Ears, my tongue, my strength, my energies, my appetites, those sort of things

C)Present them as instruments:

1)The Greek word “instruments” here is interesting It's translated “weapons” in other places TOOLS

THE PICTURE: I'm either going to be a weapon in the hands of God, a tool in the hand of God;

A)or I'm going to be a weapon and a tool in the hand of the enemy.

B)And I certainly don't want to be **his tool**. I don't want to be his weapon.

1)I want to be a weapon in God's hand. And that's what he's saying: “present your members –

C)We used to present our members as instruments of unrighteousness – now righteousness

I want you to note this distinction: The issue is Righteousness or Unrighteousness

A) that is what he is drawing our attention to –

B)Some things are neutral

I say that because there are some in the body of Christ who want to divide everything between Sacred and Secular –

A) Those lines don't exist for everything – when we try to make them exist we get ourselves in trouble

B) A new sort of bondage – called legalism – a self righteousness that just divides the body – causes all problems

1) We need to **learn the distinction between righteousness and unrighteousness – Some things are just neutral**

B) **This pulpit – Neutral – it can be used for the Sacred – preaching – Gospel – God's word**

1) Also Unrighteousness - Evolution

C) **Sports in general are Neutral – Watching a Basketball game and some guy on the team I like – makes a great play**

1) I am not praising God- break into a worship set – praising God that he made **Blake Griffin jump so high / Kobe a great shot**

D) Sports neutral – **Boys baseball team – Coaches**

E) My football team scores a touch down – I don't shout – **PTL thank you – Jesus – did that once by accident –**

1) My wife - Jesus is not into your football game

Tim Tebow – Christian – what about the guys on the other teams that are right on Christians – God made them lose?

A) Tim Tebow Story – Tom Brady – That is my house

B) Sports is neutral – it can become unrighteous if it is an idol –

1) Or it can be used for righteousness if someone like Tim Tebow uses it as a platform

Music is neutral – not sacred or secular

A) Classical – just be blown away – blessed in my heart beautiful music – Song is not about God or to God.

B) I can listen to the Edge play guitar – **Beautiful Day- great U2 Song – Listen to Bono sing –**

1) Nothing **unrighteous about it – But not **righteous** either**

Again think of it this way:

A) If you are using your voice to worship the Lord with spirit and truth – **Righteous –**

1) Using it to build up your wife or your kids – **Righteous**

B) Using it to Cuss someone out – **Unrighteous**

1) If you are using it to yell for your team – **Neutral**

C) Using eyes to study the Scriptures – **Righteousness**

1) Look at Porn – Unrighteousness

2) read the Newspaper – Neutral

So what Paul is wanting us to consider - How do I take my members that at one time were weapons of unrighteousness and turn them into weapons or tools for God.

PAUSE

This might hurt a little: Surgery

A) Hip surgery: Chiropractor – Massage it – Feel good for a few hrs – start to hurt again.

B) I didn't need a massage or an adjustment – I needed a whole new hip -

C) That is the way some people approach Church and the Bible – **Beaten up by life**

1) They want a massage- Lord, massage me today – make me feel better

2) Pastor, Massage me today – make me feel better

What we need is not a massage but an over haul.

A) Whole new approach to life. Presenting our members to righteousness/ not to unrighteousness

B) Some of you are still presenting your members to unrighteousness and you don't even realize it.

C) What is this supposed to look like?

**Starting point: The Mind: Involve Eyes and my ears
Conduits to my mind.**

A) **INTAKE** – what am I taking into my mind.

B) If my mind is going to become an instrument of righteous. it is going to involve – spending time in God's word,

1) studying the Scriptures – memorizing the Scriptures. Bible study.

C) Your whole **outlook is affected** by that – See the world from God's perspective

1) Biblical world view – which is the right world view

“Do not let the world squeeze you into its mould, but instead let yourself be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” ~ J B Phillips Romans 12:2

Your mind is renewed & transformed by God's word.

A) God's word gets into you and it starts to come out of you.

B) **Never stop doing this** – I have been studying the Bible for 30 yrs – I am still learning – discovering – treasure chest of wealth.

C) Talking about Jesus movement – Midweek – Sunday night – North park

1) Now many churches don't even have midweek Bible studies anymore -

Perhaps you used to fill your mind with books and music and movies that were ungodly – full of unrighteousness

A) That is what came out – **Garbage in Garbage out.**

B) You start filling your mind with the things of the Lord – His word – Music that has spiritual truth – worship

1) That is going to be what comes out of you.

C) **THE WORD IS KEY:** Affects everything else.

Another Member - Tongue:

A) Some of you are using your tongues as tools of unrighteousness – you don't even realize it half the time.

Aa) We live in this critical society: Critics for everything.

B) Culture that is built around it – TV talk shows – Radio – Food Critics – Music Critics – Restaurant Critics –

C) So it has become a part of our nature to be critical

1) That is the old nature- Self oriented – always unsatisfied.

D) So we start being critical of someone – or worse yet, we start to gossip.

1) Criticizing things – we don't know the whole story

The whole time we are using our tongues as instrument of unrighteousness

A) Problem is it is revealing a problem that is in our hearts

B) Out of the abundance of the Heart the mouth speaks.

B) 1 Peter 3:8-10

⁸ Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters.^[a] Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. ⁹ Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. **Instead, pay them back with a blessing.** That is what God has called you to do, and He will bless you for it. ¹⁰ For the Scriptures say,

“If you want to enjoy life
and see many happy days,
**keep your tongue from speaking evil
and your lips from telling lies.**”

C) Wow!!!!

In Ephesians – Paul puts it this way:

A) Putting off the old man and putting on the new.

Ephesians 4:25

“Putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.”

Ephesians 4:29-30

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do **not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

So with our tongues we are tearing down- instrument of Unrighteousness

A)But when we build up with our tongues – using it for righteousness – Blessing others

B)Ladies – how many of you can think of at least one thing to criticize your husband about ?

1) Sure – What about compliment ?

C)Which is going to help your marriage ? Which is righteous.

D)Kids? Criticize, put down or build up.

What would your house be like – Gave your tongue to that?

A)What would our church community be like – sat around – Build up ?

B)Others would be like – I want to be a part of a place like that – Cut throat world – different

So here is what you do – with a group or a friend – someone starts popping – off

A)Someone say –Heart check –

B)Someone who is critical all the time about others – know this – that person is critical of you and talking about you when you are not around.

C)It is sin – **grieves the HS** – it is presenting your members to unrighteousness

D)Stop it – Present – Speak what is good – build up not tear down

1)Lord help me – Start looking – for what is good in others – kids, wife, your friends, your church.

Affections: Spend all my time and energy on looking for ways to please myself.

A)Make more money – buy more things.....

B)Money is neutral – not good or bad –

1)Love of money is the root of all evil

C)Focus – More – Love money – use money for pleasure and self – Unrighteous

But if my affections are for the Lord and His Kingdom.

A)How much of my money do you want me to invest in Your kingdom { How much give

Present your mind, eyes, ears, energy, affections, Hands – instruments of Righteousness

A)Know guys in this church – gang back ground Used their hands – to beat pp up.

B)Now they use their hands to help pp in the name of Jesus

C)Energy – All your energy pursuing, pleasing your flesh.

1)Did it with great intensity

Do we seek the Lord with that same kind of intensity?

A)Pray with purpose? Pray with intensity

B)Pray with Passion ?

Close today – Examine ourselves –

A)Heart – Presented to the Lord – something else have it
Recommitment

B)Area ? Member – tool

C) Present today – Choose this week –