

Romans 6:14-23 Whose Slave are You?

Rd V 14-23

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pray

Intro: After the Civil war & the abolishing of Slavery here in the US – a lot of former slaves – had a hard time believing they were free

A) For a while – some of them were **even duped** by their owners into thinking that the whole thing was not true.

B) Because of **this confusion many of them continued to live in slavery** for a while even though they were completely FREE

1) Some even enduring harsher – treatment from their owners than they did before.

C) Many Christians are confused on the same point.

1) Jesus Christ has given them an **“Emancipation Proclamation,”** but their “old master” tells them

they are still slaves to Sin or to a legal relationship with God.

D) Here in Romans 6 Paul is wanting us to see understand – we are Free.

We saw last week that Paul began this discussion with a question and an answer in V.1

A) **Question:** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

B) **Should we just keep sinning to magnify the grace of God - ² Certainly not!**

1) What a ghastly thought – horrible idea – R U Crazy!

C) **But there is a reason:** How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

D) **Something happened to you when you came to Christ – You died to sin!**

We spent the rest of the night talking about and illustrating how sins strangle hold on us is gone

A) **Not saying we won't sin but – I am saying we no longer have to live in bondage to sin anymore**

B) **Died to sin – Connected to Christ death – He died and we died**

1) **Dead to sins penalty – Christ paid – We are dead to sins power – broken**

C) **Here is why- We are not just connected to Christ's death but we are also connected to His Resurrection**

D) **We have been made alive in Christ – New creation new nature!**

1) **Our old sin nature V.6 has been done away with Rendered inactive**

E) **We now have power to resist – that old nature – those old tendencies**

1) **The Power of the Risen Christ lives in us**

Therefore: 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.

A) We Live in the reality of our freedom by presenting the members of our body – no longer to sin-but now to righteousness

B) V. 14 Paul makes a transition Statement:
For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Paul dedicates ch.7 to the subject of the believers relationship to the law

A) But here in v.14 he sort of opens the door.

B) We are not under the law –but under grace!

1) And once again Paul anticipates the reaction of his audience.

2) Those who would say – If the law is no longer applicable to us does that give us a license to sin.

C) Paul – there are going to be those who will respond – *awesome no law all grace – Party!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

D) That is the issue Paul deals with beginning in V.15

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

A) What a Ghastly thought – are you crazy!

B) Paul is going to give us reasons why that doesn't make sense – why it is a Dangerous idea.

C) He is going to give us 5 reasons –

#1 16 You are a slave to who or what you present yourself to.

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

A) Paul is using an analogy that would be very common to his readers at this time. – Slavery.

B) Estimated 60 million slaves in the Roman empire.

In fact slaves far out numbered those who were free!

C) But slavery during that time in the Roman empire – was far different than the slavery we are associated with in our countries history.

In the Roman Empire – Slaves were more the work force of the nation.

A) Many were well educated, doctors, lawyers, builders, teachers – were all slaves in the sense that – they were had an owner –

B) They earned a salary – but they were owned in the sense that –

1) They couldn't just quit their job and move to another "owner"

V19 Paul says I am using this analogy because of the weakness of your flesh.

A) Speaking of Their inability to understand what he was teaching – so he is going to use an analogy they are familiar with. **SLAVERY**

B) THE Point:. Slaves present themselves to their master

So who or what you are presenting yourself to – you are that ones slave.

Everyone is a Slave to something!

A) Because we all are constantly presenting ourselves to something.

B) Bob Dylan was right – You have to serve somebody!

1) Might be the Devil – it might be the Lord. But you are going to have to serve someone.

Sin's desire is to Dominate:

A) Rule you! – Make you its slave

B) I know people enslaved to pride.

1) They won't admit they're faults and failures, and their refusal drives away the people that love them most.

C) I know folks enslaved to stuff.

1) Possessions come before people.

I have heard about a guy who put fishing ahead of his wife. RUINED HIS MARRIAGE

A) Might says his Bass boat sunk – his LOVE boat!

B) I know folks enslaved to pleasure.

1) They chase the highest high and the biggest buzz even to the detriment of their marriage and kids and health.

C) I'm sure you're getting the point...

1) In this world today there're slaves to success, slaves to sports,

slaves to money, slaves to control –
slaves to Ease slaves of sex
slaves to drugs slaves to alcohol

D) Even slaves to food

In the 14th century two brothers, Raynald and Edward, fought for the right to rule Belgium.

After a heated battle Edward won and took his brother to live in his castle. A special room was built for Raynald.

Edward was criticized for imprisoning his own brother, but he insisted Raynald was not a prisoner at all. He could leave whenever he wanted.

And true to Edward's word, Raynald's room had no guards – no bars – no chains - just a normal size door... *What was it that held Raynald?*

You see Raynald had the nickname, "Crassus." It's Latin for "fat." He was horribly obese. So big he couldn't fit through a normal size door.

And everyday Edward would send his best chef up to Raynald's room with all kinds of scrumptious foods, and desserts, and pastries.

For 10 years Raynald remained confined to that room.

All he had to do was slim down and he could walk out.

Yet, Raynald was a prisoner – not of his brother, Edward – but of his own appetites.

There are a lot of people today in our world enslaved to sin –because of their own appetites.

A) You are a slave to what you present yourself to.

#2 There is a progressive nature to sin! V.19-22

19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

A) **V.19 Sin leads to more sin** –lawlessness leads to more lawlessness - Never dormant.

B) **V.20-22 Paul actually uses the idea Fruit** – something is being produced –

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

C) Sin is like farming – you reap what you sow!

1) Apple seeds = Apples – not oranges

D) Sow seeds – Sin – Sin is going to be the result!

Galatians 6:7-9 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

It is interesting that Paul says do not be deceived!

A) Sin is Deceptive! It Says, "This is awesome" You don't want to miss this. –

Bb) The Bible tells us/Sin is pleasurable for a Season

C) Sin is fun- Right? – Fun sinning!

1) Part of the deception - No consequences { NO ONE WILL KNOW – OUR LITTLE SECRET-

And another Part of the Deception is this you seldom reap in the season you sow.

A) So For a while the damage goes undetected.

B) You're enjoying your sin.

1) You're ringing up the charges, but you haven't been hit with the *bill* - **but trust me, YOU WILL!**

C) Reminds me of the guy who denied the law of gravity - didn't believe it applied to him/ decided to prove it.

He climbed to the top of a twenty-story building and jumped off.

His last words were heard as he sailed past a guy on the third floor, "*Hey, nothing's happened yet!*"

D) Paul says God is not mocked! – In DUE season you will REAP!

So #1 you become a slave to what you present yourself to
#2 There is a progressive nature to sin – reap what you sow

#3 Sin ultimately brings forth death! 23 For the wages of sin is death,

A) Makes me think of death Valley California

B) How get that name? 1849 a group of pioneers died there – trying to cross

C) Population 320 people – Pop decline of 28% since 2010

1) Land area square miles – 3,000

D) San Diego – land area sq miles 372

1) Population of 1.2 million

E) Why the difference? Death Valley is an Empty, Barren worthless wasteland

That is what happens to the Person – who is enslaved to sin.

A) Their life eventually becomes a empty barren worthless wasteland.

B) But the Lord has something so much better

1) You can be the slave of Jesus

C) You are the slave of the one you present yourself to.

#4 Being a slave of Christ involves a different form of obedience. V.17

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

A) Obedience from the heart = Sincere and Genuine – obedience out of love

B) Heart of love – it is an obedience that is willing

1) It is the opposite of being forced.

C) Heart that says – I get to – I want to

It is interesting to me Jesus told his disciples I no longer call you servants – I call you friends

A) But everyone of those men – who were called by the Lord to write an epistle or a gospel

B) They referred to themselves as not the friend of Jesus – but the servant of Jesus

Doulos – Bondslave – Slave by choice

C) A slave in Roman culture could after 7 yrs go free 1) Liked his master – Doulos – Bondslave

D) **Doulos – Bondslave** – A willing slave – who loved his master and wanted to serve them forever.

1) That is what We are – Doulos – A willing slave of Jesus Christ

Obedience from the heart

But understand this is something bigger than a decision we make – but it is something done to us

A) Notice how Paul describes this: So powerful – And connected to idea of new nature

B) Paul says you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

C) The word form speaks of a pattern or a picture – even a mold

1) The Word Doctrine = teaching – the reference here is to the gospel

D) **The teaching of Christ** – about Christ – His pattern and mold for living

But here is where this really gets interesting – Paul says you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

A) That literally should read which you were delivered into.

B) See we didn't just have the gospel delivered to us when someone shared Christ with us

C) But when we embraced Jesus – we were delivered into something – delivered into a pattern a mold

1) A way of living – a way of life

D) The gospel is a pattern of life, a mold, a picture presented in Jesus

1) We have been delivered or poured into that mold, that pattern, that picture

E) You could say that believers in Jesus have been poured into this mold or pattern

1) We haven't just believed something – we have become a part of something!

It has literally become a part of us – because of our new nature!

A) Because of the Holy Spirit living inside of us

B) We now have all new tendencies – which is why Paul says in V.18 *18 And having been set free from sin, you **became** slaves of righteousness.*

C) We have become something completely different now in Christ –

1) Set free from sin – a whole new drive toward righteousness

Is there still a battle with the Flesh? Old nature?

A) Yes – but it doesn't have to be dominate anymore

B) So here is how this works now in our lives

C) Temptation comes – Holy Spirit is like an alarm

1) Don't go there – Run Flee – Fugo – Fool go

²² Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. *2 Timothy 2:22*

A) Note you flee lust by running toward something good. – not just fleeing but fleeing towards...

B) Righteousness, faith, love, peace – and fellowship with those who call ... pure heart

1) I am running toward what is right with those who are running toward the same things.

C) Now what happens when I resist the voice and conviction of the Holy Spirit

1) My heart starts to harden – Door gets thicker
Consequently the knock gets fainter

D) Parable of the Sower – we can all have areas of our heart – that are hard

But when we realize – We have been poured into Jesus – delivered into Him

A) The Holy Spirit is seeking to mold us into that image that form that we have been delivered into

#5 Fifth reason: Not continue in Sin – Jesus is a great Master *23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
A) Eternal life IN him

B) Quality of life that is found in knowing Jesus

1) Walking with Jesus

C) Satan is a thief and a robber who comes to kill to rob and to destroy

1) But I have come that you might have abundant life

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28

Come! not do! Learn of me!

A) Yoke yourself to me – Live in partnership with me

B) Allow the Holy Spirit and my word to lead you in your decisions/ priorities and pursuits

C) For my Yoke is Easy = well fitting!

1) Here is what you find – this fits well – this works

D) No strife – not a lot of stress – just going with the flow – walking with Jesus

E) Abundant life – fulfilling life – rich life!