

“Who’s Your Master?”

Romans 6:15-23

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

Verb tense is key... v.1 spoke of ongoing sin... v.15 references “occasional” sin

NOTE: Paul is speaking directly to the “*fence-sitters*” & the “*nobody’s perfect*” people...

When you give yourself the green-light to sin or “*don’t sweat it*” pass = deal w/ Devil

16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

It’s not what you say, it’s who you obey...

Faith and favorites are revealed in one’s footsteps...

There are only two roads to travel...

NOTE: Bible says EVERYONE is a SLAVE to SOMEONE or SOMETHING(S)

CANNOT BE OVER STRESSED!!!!!!!!

*** VIDEO: “WHOSE YOUR MASTER?” - WALKING THE LINE...

17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching (THE Gospel) to which you were committed,

God measures the heart... even if the head & the hands are active, without the heart one’s lost!

One translation says: “you whole-heartedly obeyed the gospel...”

Life and Death is all about the heart...

Half-heartedness = “luke-warmness” = being spit out/death

If you’re in St. Louis... can’t casually head to Boston & L.A. at the same time...

18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. = (those being sanctified)

Remember 6:1-14 = for true biblical Christians, “DEATH IS DEAD!” Jesus KILLED IT!

19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so **now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification**.

How parts/personhood being intentionally grown in slavery to righteousness?

"Members of your body" =

Mind - what are you thinking about? Focusing on? Convinced of? What do you think of the "on-line you?" More importantly: What does God think of the "on-line you?"

Eyes - what are you looking at? What have you opened the windows of your soul to? Reading? Gauging at? Mesmorized by? What do you see in the mirror?

Ears - who and what are you listening to? Lyrics to songs? Conversations you are a part of (or on the edge of)?

Nose - what do you smell (some smells say "Run!"); side note... noses were made to be a one-way street.... generally a bad idea to have things going in/up a nose (fingers to drugs)

Mouth/Tongue - Who are you talking to? What are you saying?

Arms - What/Who are you lifting up?

Hands - What are you holding? What do you have a grip on? What have you let go of that you should grab back a hold of?

Fingers - What are you pointing at? Who are you touching? What itch are you scratching? What are you typing and/or texting? (too many are too intimate with the internet!)

Legs - Where are you going? How fast are you running toward the battle line and away from sin?

Knees - How often are you kneeling down? To whom are you praying?

Feet - where are you standing? How firm are your feet of faith planted? Are you wearing God's boots of peace?

“resulting in sanctification” = “member’s” divine slavery = perpetual righteousness...

20-21 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from **the things of which you are now ashamed?** For the outcome of those things is death.

Can you see clearly the danger & foolishness of your old worldly ways?

Are you ashamed of your old ways? Truly ashamed? Ask yourself: Why? or Why not?

Do you realize that your old “trophies” were/are spiritual poison & sinful pollutants?

22 *But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, **resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.***

Again, “enslaved to God,” = justification

&

And... “enslaved to righteousness” = sanctification.

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

(See “Whose Your Master” chart)

Biblical Christianity = “Christianity” dissected into 3 parts:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Christ | = Kyrios | = Lord |
| 2. Christian | = Doulos | = Slave |
| 3. Christianity | = Martys | = Witness |

Lord = Jesus is your “All-everything,” your Only Master, the One you truly love & obey...

Lord = Omni

All powerful, All knowing, All loving, Ever-present (Jesus is God!)

Lord = Only

John 14:6

Galatians 1:10 = “Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Matthew 6 = “you cannot serve two masters...” – Jesus Christ

1 Cor. 6:20 & 7:23 = “you were **BOUGHT WITH A PRICE...**”

Lord = Obey

John 14:21 = “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me...”

1 John 2:5 = “*But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him.*”

NOTE: Principle of “obey” found in...

Sermon on Mount... “Beatitudes” = blessed obey...

John 15... “abide in Me” (Vine/branch relations)

Col. 3:23 = “do ALL things as unto the Lord”

Jesus... “good tree = good fruit... bad tree/fruit”

Leviticus 10 = Aaron’s two sons (consecrated Priests – sons of the top Priest in the land...) God strikes them dead – instantly, because they don’t take God’s call for holiness to heart when claiming to represent Him!

Slave = Jesus is the Master you are devoted to, totally dependent upon, and living for...

Slave = Devotion

Isaiah 43:1 = “...*I (God) have called you by name!*”

Galatians 1:10 = “*Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.*”

Matthew 6 = (again) “You cannot serve two masters.” – Jesus, the Christ

Woman w/ Perfume = GIVE GOD YOUR VERY BEST!

“Bride of Christ” = holy at home... vs harlots out hooking... (spiritually)

2 Tim. 4:10 = “*Demas loved this world...*” deserted Paul & the gospel!

Luke 14 = ...goes even further... unless willing to put the Lord above ALL things and people, even the closest of relationships, “*not worthy to be My disciples.*”

Slave = Dependent

Acts 1:8 = ALL of our power comes from the Holy Spirit...

Sock Puppets = we are empty sock puppets without the Holy Spirit’s strength

Slave = Dead-to-Self

Galatians 2:20 = *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

Luke 9:23 = *"Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

Witness = Jesus is who you want-to worship & serve, evidenced by your walk vs. talk...

Greek "witness" = "martyr" (mar-toos), from which we get our "martyr"

Witness = "Want-to"

Isaiah 26:9 = *"My soul yearns for you in the night in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness."*

NOTE: contrast Isaiah 26:9 with John 8:44

Colossians 1:13 = *"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves..." (rescued)*

"Deny yourself" = Jesus command... do you want to deny self and follow Him?

Is there a true and sincere "want-to" to walk with & worship the Lord?

Witness = Worship

Matthew 22:37-40 = *"Jesus said: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Witness = "Walk"

Light in a dark world = John 8:31-50

Matthew 5:14 = *"you are a city on a hill whose light cannot be dimmed"*

Holiness = **1 Peter 1:15-16** = *"be holy as the Lord your God is holy."*

Loving = *"they will know that you are Mine by your love for one another"*

Freed Spiritually = John 8:32 & 36

Authentic (“real deal”) = 1 John 3:18

Royal Priesthood = 1 Peter 2:9 (contrast to Lev. 10/Aaron’s sons)

Walk by Faith =

Hebrews 11:6 = *“without faith it is impossible to please God”*

Romans 14:23 = *“whatever is not done in faith is sin”*

Anything & everything else is a form of Satan’s sinful lie(s) and will lead to eternal death & damnation.

Here are just 3 biblical truths to represent the tip of the ice berg...

James 4:4 = *You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

John 8:44 = *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Jeremiah 44:16 = *“We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD!”*

In closing... in light of our text for today....

“you are a slave to the one whom you obey.” – Romans 6:16

Consider the contrast between these eternal truths...

Ephesians 2:2 = *“you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”*

Matthew 18:7 = *“Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!”*

Remember.... “you are a slave to the one whom you obey...”

For the “slaves of righteousness”

1 John 2:6 = “**Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.**”

For the “slaves of God”

Matthew 25:21 = “**His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave!**

You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Let’s pray!