

Slavery and Sanctification

Key Scriptures

Romans 6:14-23 ^{NET 14} For sin will have no mastery over you, because you are not under law but under grace.

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

Absolutely not!

¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or obedience resulting in righteousness?

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you were slaves to sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching you were entrusted to,

¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.

¹⁹ (I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.) For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness.

²¹ So what benefit did you then reap from those things that you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death.

²² But now, freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit leading to sanctification, and the end is eternal life.

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

Key Point: The one whom you present yourself to obey, you are that one's slave.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- When you became a Christian, was the change in your life dramatic, gradual or imperceptible? Explain.

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Read Romans 6:15–23. Paul compares both our old life and our new life to slavery. Why is this analogy appropriate in each case (vv. 15–18)?
- How does our slavery to God differ from our slavery to sin (vv. 19–23)?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Paul's argument is that there are only two options: Everyone is a slave, either to Sin or to God. In thinking about being a slave to righteousness and God, how does that make you feel? Why?
- Can you think of examples from your own past, or in the lives of those you know, of how slavery to sin is a kind of "death"?
- How would you use this passage to answer someone who says to you: *"I don't like Christianity because it restricts my freedom."*

or *"Why do you bother to obey God, if He already accepts you?"*

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Everyone is either a slave to sin or a slave to God. These are the only two options. How will remembering this help you the next time sin tempts you?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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