

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
A Study in the Book of Romans

Contrasting Two Slaveries

Romans 6:15–7:6

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

Read Romans 6:15-19.

1. Paul anticipates his readers' thinking and asks another rhetorical question. What is the question and why does he ask it? (v. 15)

2. Have you ever rationalized /excused your sin with excuses like these?
 - a. It doesn't matter if I sin now that I'm a Christian; I'm saved, praise the Lord!
 - b. Since I've been baptized and raised with Christ, and it's a done deal and irreversible, I can relax a little in my struggle against sin.
 - c. Now that I'm in Christ, God *has* to sanctify me, no matter what I do. So I'll “let go and let God.”

What's wrong with this type of thinking? (v. 16)

3. Paul makes it clear that we are all slaves. What are our two choices? (v. 16)

4. What is the first step in becoming a slave? (v. 16)

5. What does *slavery to sin* imply about your life and its prospects? (v. 19)

What does slavery to righteousness imply? (v. 18)

Read Romans 6:20–23.

6. Unbelievers think of themselves as “free” from the shackles of religion. What is Paul's sobering evaluation of this so-called “freedom”? (vv. 20–21)

7. As believers, what are the results of being set free from sin? (vv. 22-23)


8. Why is God a good master? (Ps. 23; 1 Peter 5:7b)

9. Why isn't slavery to God burdensome? (Matt. 11:28–30; 1 John 5:3b–4)

Read Romans 7:1–6.

10. In Paul’s example of marriage, when does the law no longer have authority over someone? (vv. 2-3)

11. What causes the law to no longer have authority over someone still living? (v. 4; Gal. 3:13)

( Jer. 31:31-33)

12. In Romans 6, Paul speaks about believers being dead to sin and in chapter 7 of being dead to the law. What parallels do you see in these verses?

Romans 6

v. 2 “died to sin”

v. 4 “we may live a new life”

v. 6 “our old self was crucified with him”

v. 4 “Christ was raised from the dead”

vv. 7, 18 “free(d) from sin”

v. 22 “the benefit you reap leads to holiness”

Romans 7

v. 4

v. 6

v. 4

v. 4

v. 6

v. 4b

13. Reflect on the lists above. How do these truths affect your view of who you really are and the nature of your life?

14. What is the purpose of being freed from the law and joined to Christ? (v. 4)

15. The master we serve determines the fruit we will bear in life. What are some specific examples of

a. “Fruit to God” (v. 4)? (Gal. 5:22-23)

b. “Fruit for death” (v. 5)? (Rom.1:28-32)

c. What fruit have you seen produced in your life?

16. Verse 6 mentions two types of people: someone who serves “in the way of the Spirit” and someone who serves in “the old way of the written code.” In what way does your attitude toward the law need to change?