

## Defining the Freedom of Grace (Romans 6:15-23)

### I. The Freedom of Grace Does Not Overlook Sin (v. 15)

#### A. Believers are not under law but Grace

1. Paul asks if this means we are free to sin
2. Paul assumes that grace cannot lead to sin

#### B. Believers relationship to grace and sin is explained in the rest of the verses

### II. The Freedom of Grace is Slavery to Righteousness (16-23)

#### A. The Example of Slavery (16-19)

*(Paul gives us a picture of what salvation looks like in the remainder of the chapter. He is speaking about a spiritual reality but he is using a physical example that men will understand. "I speak after the manner of men..." v.19)*

#### 1. Men are slaves to whom they serve (v. 16)

##### a. Whoever or whatever you obey is your master

- i. If you are ruled by something or someone it determines what you do.
- ii. Imagine a "boss" that ran your life – when he spoke you yielded to him. You obeyed him.
- iii. This is the picture Paul gives – If you live a lifestyle of yielding yourself to sin – then sin is your master. You can deny it all you want, but if you obey when your master calls then you are his servant.

##### b. There are consequences of being a servant

- i. If your master is sin it results in death
- ii. If your master is obedience to God, it results in righteousness

(before you start thinking that this means you are working for your righteousness, read the next verse and he will explain this obedience.)

#### 2. Men's Heart Obedience Frees them from Slavery to Sin (v. 17)

##### a. Your Freedom is Given by God ("God be thanked...")

- i. It is not of your own doing
- ii. You owe your freedom to God

##### b. Your Freedom came from a Heart obedience

- i. It is not just following rules that makes you righteous
- ii. It is an obedience that flows from a changed heart
- iii. It is the inevitable result of a changed heart

##### c. Your Freedom came when you obeyed Gospel

- i. He isn't just talking about keeping commandments
- ii. He says you obeyed *the form of doctrine* ("teaching") that was given to you. It is the message of salvation by grace through faith that Paul has spelled out in the first 5 chapters of this book.

#### 3. Men's Freedom Means Serving a New Master (v.18)

- a. Freedom from sin is spoken of in the past tense here. "Being then made free from sin...."

- i. It is completely accomplished through Christ
    - ii. Sin no longer reigns in the believers life
  - b. Freedom from sin means being a slave to righteousness
    - i. All men serve someone, either God or Satan
    - ii. Slavery to sin meant that even the good things you did were tainted by sins hold. Sin dominated every aspect of your life. (no matter how good you thought you were)
  - c. Freedom to serve Righteousness is spoken of as a past act
    - i. He does not say that you will be O.K. if you keep on serving righteousness and work hard.
    - ii. He says you WERE slaves you sin but you BECAME slaves of righteousness. It is an accomplished fact through Christ.
    - iii. **Do you really believe and trust that or are you just hoping that it is true?**
- 4. Men's Freedom from sin is like freedom from physical slavery (v.19a)
  - a. The effect and power of sin in our lives was so strong the only example Paul could give was that of a slave serving his master.
  - b. He is speaking after the manner of men (using a human example) because of how wicked our flesh actually was.
- B. The Offering of Yourselves to Slavery (19b)
 

*Because of the facts Paul has already laid out. (you were slaves to sin but you are now slaves to righteousness because of you new heart which results in obedience to God), you are to no longer offer yourselves to obey the master from which you were freed. In other words, since Sin and your flesh are no longer your master – stop listening to them – you don't have to obey them anymore.*

  - 1. You used to obey sin which resulted in more sin
    - a. You used to yield your members (your body) to uncleanness
    - b. You used to yield your members “to iniquity unto iniquity”
      - i. This means that when you yielded to sin it always produced more sin
  - 2. You now obey righteousness
    - a. The words “even so” mean in the same way that you once yielded to sin, you now yield to righteousness.
    - b. Where yielding to sin led to more sin, yielding to righteousness leads to holiness.
      - i. “holiness” here is speaking of a growing pattern of living righteously. The more we yield to righteousness, the more we grow in holiness.
- C. The Results of Slavery (20-23)
 

*This is not an option for believers. The stakes are high. The results of serving one master or the other are enormous...life and death.*

1. The Result of Slavery to sin is shame and death (20-21)
  - a. When you served sin you had no righteousness
    - i. You were “free” from righteousness
    - ii. You are either 100% righteous or 0%
  - b. The only fruit you received from your master was things that have made you ashamed
    - i. Sin brings shame before God
    - ii. Sin brings shame before men
  - c. The end result of sin is death
    - i. This is spiritual eternal separation from God
    - ii. This is not just dying physically – Paul compares this “death” to eternal life in v. 22
2. The Result of Slavery to God is growing in holiness and eternal life
  - a. Service to God (through the heart obedience to the gospel) will always lead to a life that grows in holiness as the years go by. It doesn’t mean believers are perfect – far from it – but it does mean they are being perfected one day at a time. Sometimes it doesn’t seem to be progressing as fast as we want – but it is progressing.
  - b. Service to God (through the heart obedience to the gospel) leads to eternal life forever with God because of Christ’s righteousness.
3. The Summary of Results
  - a. The wages of sin is death
    - i. death is “earned” from sin
    - ii. men work sin and they are paid for their labor
  - b. Eternal life is a gift not a wage
    - i. men don’t work for righteousness leading to eternal life
    - ii. It is a gift of God to those who obey from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to you.
      - it is a gift accessed by trusting the gospel teaching.