

VI

God's Slaves

ROMANS 6:15–23

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to 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 in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the

fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

JOHN 8:31–38

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

COLOSSIANS 1:13–14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

READ | ROMANS 6:15–23

THINK ABOUT

Impurity and lawlessness are the consequences of being a slave to sin. But when we are slaves of God, the fruits are holiness and eternal life.

Whoever you obey is your master: sin or God. Slaves of sin or slaves of God?

Consider the teaching of Jesus in John 8:31–38.

APPLY

Each day ask yourself: Am I pursuing God or am I pursuing sin? Who is my master?

Present yourself to God each day as His slave.

Check today whether your heart is obedient (v. 17). Praise God that He is your Master.

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ASK

Are you guilty of “cheap grace” and presuming on the kindness and goodness of God?

What would be some early signs that you are a “slave of sin”?

Is someone who consistently lives an immoral life an authentic follower of Jesus?

Is there any evidence of unholiness in your life?

What does it mean to receive “the free gift of God” which is “eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (v. 23)?

PRAY

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”
(Psalm 139:23–24).*

Thank you Lord for your free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.



SING

“Your Own” — C. Hathaway

“GOD’S SLAVES”

Romans 6:15–23

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