

Freed from Sin, Enslaved to God Romans 6:12-23

Bob Dylan used to sing, "You're gonna have to serve somebody...it may be the devil or it may be the Lord but you're gonna have to serve somebody." Mr. Dylan may not have understood the full implications of what he was singing, but he spoke truth nevertheless. We all serve somebody – ourselves, sin and death, or God, obedience and righteousness. As Christians, we have been freed from serving the destructive master, sin - it is no longer necessary or appropriate for us to sin since we now belong to God. And when we offer ourselves up to God, we discover that He is a good, life-giving Master.

Question (6:15)

- 6:1 – "Shall we remain under the mastery, or in the realm of 'sin'?"
 - In order to gain more grace (5:20)
- 6:15 – "Shall we commit sin"
 - Because we are not under law (6:14)

"Why not sin 'freely'?"

Answer (6:15b)

- May it NEVER be!
- Meaning of "not under law" (ch. 7)
- "Why not sin 'freely'?" (6:15-23)
 - JUSTIFICATION
 - SANCTIFICATION
 - Grace NOT Law*
 - Spirit NOT flesh*

Explanation

"Why not sin 'freely'?"

- Sin is not necessary

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.... Colossians 1:13

- Sin is not appropriate

"...Paul's concept of freedom is not that of autonomous self-direction but of deliverance from those enslaving powers that would prevent the human being from becoming what God intended." Douglas Moo

True freedom is the desire and the ability to do and become what is righteous, good and beneficial.

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." — John 8:34

- Sin is a destructive master
 - shame
 - death
 - deepening enslavement
- God is a good Master
 - righteousness
 - sanctification
 - eternal life

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” — John 10:10

Application (6:13, 16, 19)

PRESENT

Romans 12:1

Therefore I urge you, brethren... to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

2 Peter 2:7–8

...and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds)....