

I. Introduction and review: v. 15, 19a

- A. Does grace promote lawlessness? v. 15 May it never be!
- B. How does grace promote holiness?
 - 1. Notice where Paul does not begin.
 - a. He does not begin with an exposition of the ten commandments.
 - b. Nor does Paul omit every reference to obedience. v. 16 13:9
 - c. Nor does Paul promote a formula to receive a second blessing of holiness.
 - 2. Again Paul says, “Remember who you are in Christ,” using an analogy. v. 11
- C. God teaches us using illustrations. v. 19a
 - 1. We need earthly examples to help us understand spiritual truth. Heb. 5:11f
 - 2. No analogy is comprehensive.
 - 3. Slavery is an effective picture of your status both before and after conversion.

II. You are a slave, whether you realize it or not. v. 16

- A. You are in bondage to whatever masters you. v. 16a
 - 1. Only God is perfectly free (independent).
 - 2. There is no such thing as absolute human freedom.
- B. Your master is either sin or obedience. v. 16b
 - 1. The one who sins is a slave to sin and its deceitfulness. John 8:34 II Pe. 2:18-19
 - 2. The one who obeys God is a slave to righteousness.
 - 3. There is no middle ground or third way.
 - 4. It is impossible to serve both masters. Mt. 6:24 Js. 4:4
 - 5. Your life demonstrates whose servant you are. I Jo. 1:6 2:4 3:9-10

III. Thank God you have been transferred from sin to righteousness. v. 17-18

- A. You used to be a slave to sin. v. 17a
 - 1. All of us are by nature slaves of sin from conception. 5:12 Ps. 51:5
 - 2. You were *not able not to sin*.
 - 3. What about the “good people”. 3:23 Mark 10:17-27 Lu. 18:9-14 16:15 Isa. 64:6
- B. God has liberated you from sin’s tyranny. v. 18a Col. 1:13
 - 1. You never could have freed yourself. 8:7-8 3:10f Jo. 6:44 Jer. 13:23
 - 2. Your emancipation is God’s work. v. 17a
 - 3. You are *able not to sin*.
- C. Now you are slaves of righteousness. v. 17b, 18b
 - 1. You have been transferred from one slavery to another. *Under new ownership*.
 - 2. You obey your new Master voluntarily and wholeheartedly. Ex. 21:1f
 - 3. You have been committed to a new standard of belief and practice. John 8:32
 - 4. You are now under the control of righteousness. v. 18b
- D. Has this happened to you?
 - 1. Some claim to want a “personal relationship with God” but disdain doctrine.
 - 2. Some people seek forgiveness, but not holiness.
 - 3. Some are double-minded: trying to serve both sin and righteousness.

IV. Therefore, live as slaves of righteousness. v. 19b-c

- A. Again Paul is basing his exhortation upon your status in Christ. v. 11-13**
- 1. Remember who you are. v. 11**
 - 2. Live in light of your new position. v. 12-13**
God's work does not rule out human activity. Phil. 2:12-13
- B. No longer serve your old master: sin. v. 19b**
- 1. Sin wants you to continue to serve him.**
 - 2. Don't present your members to serve impurity and lawlessness.**
 - 3. If you yield to sin, you will sink further into lawlessness. 13:14b**
- C. Serve as willing slaves of righteousness. v. 19c**
- 1. Present your entire being to God's service. 12:1**
 - a. You have been bought at a high price. I Co. 6:19-20 Mark 10:45**
 - b. Serve God with the same zeal that you once served sin.**
 - c. Hold nothing back: your time, money, ambitions, relationships.**
 - 2. As you practice righteousness you will grow more and more in sanctification.**
 - 3. There is no quick and easy way to be made holy. II Co. 3:18**
- D. Which way are you going?**

V. Your new life of righteousness is superior to your old life of sin. v. 20-22

- A. You formerly lived in bondage.**
- 1. Sin was your master.**
 - 2. You were completely free from the domain of righteousness. Jo. 8:36 3:19**
 - 3. You received no fruit, other than shame. 3:10 Pr. 23:29 I Ti. 1:13 I Pe. 4:3**
 - 4. The final outcome is death. 6:23.**
- B. You enjoy new freedom in Christ. v. 22**
- 1. God is your master.**
 - 2. You have been freed from sin.**
 - a. True freedom is freedom to obey God.**
 - b. This doesn't mean believers never sin.**
 - 3. You receive the fruit of sanctification.**
 - 4. The final outcome is eternal life. 6:23**

VI. Concluding applications: Realizing who you are in Christ is the key to holiness.

Discussion questions for family worship

- 1. Why does Paul use the analogy of slavery? v. 19a**
- 2. In what sense is every person a slave? v. 16a**
- 3. Why is it impossible to serve two masters? v. 16b**
- 4. What was it like to serve sin?**
- 5. How can you know that you have become a slave of righteousness?**
- 6. What is God's part and man's part in sanctification? v. 17, 19b**
- 7. What reasons does Paul give for you to actively serve righteousness? v. 20-22**
- 8. What is the key to holiness?**
- 9. What other approaches do people take to sanctification?**
- 10. How would you answer the question in verse 15?**