

Habits of Holiness

Last week we studied Romans 6:12-14, which emphasized what we ***shouldn't*** do with the members of our bodies – we shouldn't present them to sin as instruments of un-righteousness. Today's passage emphasizes what we ***should*** do with the members of our bodies – we should present them to God as instruments of righteousness. Because we have been bought with a price, we are now holy – set apart exclusively for God's purposes. We are no longer to use our bodies however we want; we are to "glorify God with our bodies" (1 Cor. 6:20). And glorifying God by living a holy life is the greatest vision we could ever have for our lives!

Read Romans 6:15-23

1. What sticks out to you in this passage?
2. What are the two options that Paul presents in terms of obedience in this passage? What is the result of each (v. 16, 19)?

Steve said:

If you present yourself to sin, you are allowing sin to be your master. And sin is a very harsh, demanding master. Sin promises freedom and satisfaction and life, but it results in slavery, disappointment, and death. You can choose to obey sin, but you cannot choose whether or not it will lead to death. This is what we don't understand when we yield ourselves to some sin over an extended period of time.

3. In what ways have you experienced the truth that sin leads to death?
4. Paul gives thanks to God that the Romans had "become obedient from the heart" (v. 17)? What does it mean to become obedient from the heart? And is this something that happens at salvation or is this some kind of post-salvation commitment?

Steve said:

“Having been freed from sin,” they became “slaves of righteousness” [v. 18]. Colin Kruse points out that, “Slavery to God, paradoxically, is genuine freedom.” This sounds strange to our ears because we don’t associate slavery - even slavery to God - as freedom. We associate freedom with being able to do **whatever** we want, **whenever** we want, with **whomever** we want. But for Paul doing whatever WE want leads to slavery because we are bent toward sin.

5. Why can't a person be his or her own master, enslaved to neither God nor sin?

6. Does slavery to God seem like a paradox to you? Why or why not? And ultimately, why is slavery to God genuine freedom?

7. Paul says that the fruit of being freed from sin and enslaved to God is sanctification (v. 22f)? What is sanctification? And to what does it lead?

8. It could sound like Paul is saying that by our obedience we earn the outcome of eternal life (v. 22). How does Paul make it clear that this is not the case in the following verse?

9. What are some practical ways that we can live out the truths of this passage?