

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 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? 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, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 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. Romans 6:15-19 (ESV)

Obey Me

Why do you want to obey me? Is it tremendously hard for you to obey me? Is obeying me an exceedingly difficult decision for you to make? Are you torn between different priorities when you are thinking about obeying me? Do some of these questions seem ridiculous to you? I wouldn't say that. **You might think it?** That is possible. But I would like to answer these questions right now. **Go ahead.** In fact, the words, "right now" are important. **How so?** The time to decide to obey you is "right now."
Why is that? "Right now", I am not facing a temptation. "Right now", the world and all the evil in it is not attempting to entice me. "Right now", I do not feel the allure that temptation can present. So, making an advance decision that I will obey you is timely and important. Attempting to make that decision later, in the heat of the moment, is the wrong time and too late. **Can you say more about why making an advance decision to obey me is so important?** Yes, I can. If I am determined to obey you, I will not allow myself to enter into tempting situations. That is at least half the battle. **Yes, it is.** Once more, If I am determined to obey you, I will have a list of things that I will never do. My advance decision will guide to where I will not go and to what I will never do. **That is very good.**

You have highlighted when it is the best time to decide to obey me. You have not told me why you want to obey me. Where does your desire to obey me come from? My desire to obey you comes from my heart. I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Obeying you is what I want to do. I am not torn between priorities when I must reaffirm my decision to obey you. Obeying you is not an exceedingly difficult decision to make. It is not tremendously hard for me to obey you. Do I obey you perfectly? Do I never sin? The answer is obvious. I do not obey you perfectly. I am not without sin. But the overwhelming desire and course of my life is to follow and obey you with all that is within me because I love you. **That is very good.** Thank you, Lord, for your love for me. Help me to keep on obeying you from my heart. **You can count on it.**

Lord, I will not allow myself to become a slave of sin. Those days are gone. You set me free. You broke sin's power over me. Now, I will distance myself from sinful temptations. Now, I will be obedient from the heart to what you have and are now teaching me. Amen

The Virtuous Life

Slavery To Righteousness

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

NIV

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Slaves To Righteousness

Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

NLT

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Slaves To Righteousness

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 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? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 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 greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

NRSV

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Slaves Of Righteousness

What then [are we to conclude]? Shall we sin because we live not under Law but under God's favor *and* mercy? Certainly not! Do you not know that if you continually surrender yourselves to anyone to do his will, you are the slaves of him whom you obey, whether that be to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness (right doing and right standing with God)? But thank God, though you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed *and* to which you were committed. And having been set free from sin, you have become the servants of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in thought, purpose, and action). I am speaking in familiar human terms because of your natural limitations. For as you yielded your bodily members [and faculties] as servants to impurity and ever increasing lawlessness, so now yield your bodily members [and faculties] once for all as servants to righteousness (right being and doing) [which leads] to sanctification.

AMP

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Slaves To Righteousness

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

NASB

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Slaves To Righteousness

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 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? 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, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 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.

ESV

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Slaves Of Righteousness

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

NKJV

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Live In God's Freedom

So, since we're out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? Since we're free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind? Hardly. You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in *his* freedom! I'm using this freedom language because it's easy to picture. You can readily recall, can't you, how at one time the more you did just what you felt like doing—not caring about others, not caring about God—the worse your life became and the less freedom you had? And how much different is it now as you live in God's freedom, your lives healed and expansive in holiness?

MSG

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Slaves To All That Is Right And Holy

Does this mean that now we can go ahead and sin and not worry about it? (For our salvation does not depend on keeping the law but on receiving God's grace!) Of course not! Don't you realize that you can choose your own master? You can choose sin (with death) or else obedience (with acquittal). The one to whom you offer yourself—he will take you and be your master, and you will be his slave. Thank God that though you once chose to be slaves of sin, now you have obeyed with all your heart the teaching to which God has committed you. And now you are free from your old master, sin; and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness. I speak this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters, because it is easy to understand: just as you used to be slaves to all kinds of sin, so now you must let yourselves be slaves to all that is right and holy.

TLB

Romans 6:15-19

The Virtuous Life

Slaves Of Goodness

So what should we do? Should we sin because we are under grace and not under law? No! Surely you know that when you give yourselves like slaves to obey someone, then you are really slaves of that person. The person you obey is your master. You can follow sin, which brings spiritual death, or you can obey God, which makes you right with him. In the past you were slaves to sin—sin controlled you. But thank God, you fully obeyed the things that you were taught. You were made free from sin, and now you are slaves to goodness. I use this example because this is hard for you to understand. In the past you offered the parts of your body to be slaves to sin and evil; you lived only for evil. In the same way now you must give yourselves to be slaves of goodness. Then you will live only for God.

NCV

Romans 6:15-19

Slaves Of Righteousness

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Virtuous Life – Romans 6:15-19

In Context: *Read Romans 6*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 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? 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, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 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. Romans 6:15-19 (ESV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

What then? | Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? | By no means! | 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? | 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, | and, | having been set free from sin, | have become slaves of righteousness. | 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. Romans 6:15-19 (ESV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will not allow myself to become a slave of sin. Those days are gone. You set me free. You broke sin's power over me. Now, I will distance myself from sinful temptations. Now, I will be obedient from the heart to what you have and are now teaching me. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why would it be a tragic mistake to allow yourself to become a slave of sin?

When are you most vulnerable to becoming a slave to sin?

What must you distance yourself from so that you do not become a slave of sin?

What must you never do if you want to live in the freedom that the Lord has secured for you?

Why will lingering around and playing with temptation always lead you into sin?

How is being a slave to righteousness guiding your sanctification, changing all your thoughts, words, and actions?

Why will you never regret being obedient from the heart to all that the Lord has taught you?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Be obedient from the heart to all that the Lord has taught you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to be obedient from the heart to all that you have been taught.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are being obedient from the heart to the Lord's teaching.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you be obedient from the heart to all that the Lord has taught you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will be obedient from the heart to all that you have taught me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I be obedient from the heart to you today?
