

Leader's Guide

Romans 6 Slave and Free

Key Points

If we are under grace and not law, does that give us license to sin? The question seems absurd, yet it is the very question that what was on the hearts of the Jewish leaders as they wrestled with the truth of justification by grace. In this passage Paul begins to address these concerns by examining the core issue of our identity *in Christ*.

- The significance of our baptism and identification with Christ
- Slavery to sin
- Death to sin
- The reign of sin
- Slavery to righteousness
- A call to holy living

Paul's words have great, practical implications. Imagine a life lived enslaved to sin. You and the people in your group all lived in captivity. Although our circumstances vary the results were the same: resolve and discipline were not enough to end our bondage to sin. Now imagine that same life—your life—redeemed. By grace we live in freedom. Although we are not sinless, we have the power in Christ to be freed from the bondage we once experienced.

Personal Reflection

- ◀ The way we prepare personally will impact the way we lead. Take time to examine your former way of life—the sin that used to enslave you. Think about the ways that you are now free from that enslavement. As you think about the process (your spiritual formation), worship and thank God for who He is and what He has done!

Discussion Questions

1. Theologically, we know that we are no longer in Adam, we are now in Christ. Our baptism, if water, symbolizes this reality; if spiritual, is the reality of being “in Christ.” Practically speaking, what are the implications of being dead to sin and alive to Christ? *(This is an important foundation for the rest of this passage.)*
2. Why should a Christian stop sinning even though he or she knows God has forgiven and will forgive sins?
3. If we are dead to sin, how does God help us understand and live in that truth, free from sin’s ruling power? What are the implications of this regarding old sinful habits and propensities?
4. Is there a “controlling” sin in your life that you commit willingly because you are counting on God’s grace to forgive you? What would it take to walk away from that sin?
5. What differences are there (the differences between yielding to sin and yielding to Christ) in your life since coming to know Christ?
6. What are the characteristics of someone who is dead to sin and is continually offering him/herself to God as an instrument of righteousness and do you know someone like that? What circumstances led to them live in such a way?
7. What benefits and pleasures do people think they gain from sinful living?
8. What are the benefits and pleasures of righteous living?
9. In what areas of your life do you need God’s help to loosen the grip of certain sins?
10. The reality of this passage is the change in masters (from sin to righteousness). If you are a believer and are caught in the enslavement of sin, what must you do to be free?