

FREE AT LAST!
Romans 6:15-23

Swindoll: "I don't know anyone who'd want to...
...vacation in house boat upstream from Niagara Falls.
...light a match to see if your gas tank is empty!
Yet many Christians flirt with greater risks."

We do what we feel like:

"God wants me happy. I can't be happy married to her

"God gave me this desire; & He wants me to enjoy it!"

Ignoring God's Word we're *enslaved* by our choices.

Though Christ's death freed us from bondage to sin,
we *voluntarily* present ourselves again as *slaves to sin*.

After explaining gospel: people who trust Christ receive life

6-8 Salvation by faith leads to godly living

3 obj. to salvation by trusting Christ alone 6-7

1st – Objection based on grace 6:1-14

Objection: If salvation's based on trusting Christ alone, then
greater our sin, more grace abounds.

=>"sin *more*, so God's grace will be *more* evident? 6:1

Response: "No Way!" => 6:2-14

We've died to sin.

We've risen to new life with Christ.

Therefore, we can't go on living in sin.

"We can't live as we once did

because we're no longer the person we once were."

2nd obj.: Obj. concerning Liberty 6:15-7:6

We're not under law, but under grace. Therefore we're free

Some say he teaches: since we're not under law.

=> OK to go on sinning!

Objection: 6:15a *“What then? Are we to sin because we’re not under law but under grace?”*

We aren't saved by law; we're saved by grace.

Doesn't that leave us *free* to break the law?

Way to life: **NOT** by obeying rules; by trusting Jesus.

We'll never make it by the rules. *No one's good enough!*

Godly living isn't about following a list of rules!

We're truly free –for 1st time in our lives!

Why would we want to go back into bondage?!!

If law doesn't matter, might as well live it up! *Right?!!*

Doesn't that leave us free to break the law, without worrying about losing our salvation?

Response: 6:15b-7:6 15b *“By no means!”“no way!”*

Faith in Christ doesn't give us freedom TO sin it gives us freedom FROM sin.

We're now FREE –to serve God.

Becoming a child of God doesn't make us free to do as WE please; It creates desire to serve & please HIM!

[2 illustrations make Paul's point. First, . . .]

ILLUSTRATION FROM SLAVERY 6:16-23

Illustration: when a slave changes owners, old owner no longer has authority over him.

We were slaves of sin; now we're free from sin

We don't have to continue sinning.

We're free to serve righteousness & live godly life.

We're ALL slaves of something.

Some slaves to work, driven by performance, success, money; some to possessions; relationships, seeking approval by others; some to self, living for pleasure, to satisfy our desires.

We're slaves of something.

Some sirve sin; Others serve righteousness.

6:16 *"Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you're slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you're slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?"*

Roman law declared no freeborn person could be enslaved. **Con artists** worked system. Sell selves as slaves, take profit, then have friend attest they're freeborn.

New law enacted: Anyone who sold self into slavery could no longer claim free status. *"To whom you present yourselves as slaves to obey, his slave you are."*

You can tell who slave's master is by watching whom he obeys. Each obeys his own master!

We were slaves of sin.

We couldn't choose another master.

Now we're free from sin; free to serve God.

17-23 *"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. ¹⁸You've been set free from sin & become slaves to righteousness. ¹⁹I put this in human terms because you're weak in your natural selves. As you used to offer the parts of your body in*

slavery to impurity & to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰*When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.* ²¹*What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you're now ashamed of? Those things result in death!* ²²*Now that you've been set free from sin & become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, & the result is eternal life.* ²³*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Now we're free to live by new pattern.

Half people in Roman Empire were slaves—even doctors, lawyers, & teachers.

Only in slavery to God is there true freedom.

Old lifestyle leads to shame and death.

Prodigal Son: When home, wants freedom; leaves home looking for fun. His rebellion leads to slavery. Ultimately, a literal slave, taking care of *pigs*; sharing their food. *Nothing* could be more embarrassing for a Jew! When he returns home & *yields* to his father, then he finds *freedom!*

Slaves of sin => wickedness => death.

Slaves of righteousness => holiness => life

Slaves of sin, righteousness couldn't control us.

Free to serve righteousness; sin can't control us— can no longer demand *anything* from us!

Satan is paymaster. He'd be glad to see we get *exactly* what we deserve —what we earn—death!

But God, has given us a **gift: eternal life.**

Life of faith is free from law's demands;
still **produces life** that **pleases God.**

Liberty that faith produces motivates us to serve God.

WE HAVE LIBERTY...

Not to continue sinning –but to avoid sinning
So, how should we then live?

1. Be sure you're in Christ.

Without Him we don't stand chance. We're slaves of sin.
Solution comes by trusting Christ; receiving new life.

2. Enjoy your freedom in Christ.

We're no longer in bondage to sin! *Enjoy it!*

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: Declared slaves free.
That freedom didn't become reality for most until later. They didn't
know they're free! Though *legally* free, they were *practically*
enslaved.

If someone sets captives free, makes little difference to *them*
until they know freedom's decreed & what it *means* to be free.

Many Christians don't know what it *means* to be free!

Satan wants to keep it that way!

Satan deceives us; makes us think we're still slaves.
In Christ we're truly free.

HE's given us everything we need to serve Him.

3. Present yourself as slave to righteousness **which leads to holiness.**

Consider self free from sin. Choose to live in freedom.

Satan uses failure to convince us we're worthless.

Believe what God says: He freed us to live as His slaves

Poet captured thought:

I do not work my soul to save, That work my Lord hath done.

But I will work like any slave For love of God's dear Son."

Shall we sin because we're not under law but under grace?

NO WAY! Why?

**Because we're slaves of Christ—freed from law,
so we can follow a new master.**

7:6 *"By dying to what once bound us, we've been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, & not in the old way of the written code."*

PRAISE GOD!!

Why would we ever go back to the bondage?!!