

## How Do We Then Live?

### Week 4 - Romans 6:15-23

? If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

#### Objectives:

- We have been set free from sin, and are “slaves to righteousness”.

#### Slaves to Righteousness

##### Romans 6:15-18 NIV

<sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. <sup>18</sup> You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

? Why do you think Paul begins this section in an almost identical way to verses 1-14? Why is that important?

*Possible answers: Repetition in the Bible is a sure sign that something is important. Paul really wants us to get the point he's making; our freedom from the law does not equate to freedom to sin as much as we want.*

? How does Paul use the metaphor of slavery? According to Paul, are we ever truly free?

*Possible answers: It is an extreme metaphor that people of the day would have been familiar with. We are never truly free, we are always enslaved to something. The question is, to what?*

? What does it mean that we are “slaves to righteousness”?

*Possible answers: Being slaves to righteousness means looking to God as our master rather than sin. As believers, we are called to obedience to God rather than to the law. Obedience to God leads to life and righteousness.*

“The law says to us ‘If I obey, then I’ll be accepted.’  
Grace says ‘I’m accepted, therefore I obey.’”  
- Pastor Steve Treichler (Romans Untangled podcast)

## New Life

### Romans 6:19-23 NIV

<sup>19</sup> I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. <sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

? If we are free from sin, what is our motivation to be obedient to God?

*Possible answers: Our motivation is no longer fear of punishment. It is our gratitude for what he has done and the joy and purpose that comes from following God.*

? What makes this new life possible?

*Possible answers: In verses 17-18, Paul thanks God that He has set us free from sin. God has released us from sin and death and given us new life.*

? In verse 19, Paul suggests that there should be similarities between the two types of “slavery.” How are they similar? How are they different?

*Possible answers: Similar: Same energy, passion, and commitment. Different: No longer in fear, we serve God instead of sin, result is eternal life instead of death, the means to that result is no longer “wages” but a “gift” (verse 23)*

## For Discussion and Accountability

? What was God telling you through this passage this week? What did you need to hear?

? How can you live under grace this week? How can we encourage you with this?