

**Not Ashamed
(Week 16)
Romans 6:11-23
“Give Yourself Away”**

Introduction

“So you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under The Law but under grace.” **Romans 6:11-14**

Were the entire theme of **Romans Chapter 6** to be summed up in three words, those words would be; **Realize, Reckon, and Relinquish**. First, as believers in Christ we must **Realize** that because we are baptized into Christ, we are now one with Him. And, as such, because he died for sin, we died TO sin. In other words, the flesh that we inherited from Adam has now been crucified with Christ. It can no longer rule over us. For a Christian to fall into sin, they have to allow themselves to be influenced by someone, who is dead and gone and no longer has any control over them. We must come to understand this reality, if we are to be truly free from sin’s sway over us.

Secondly, we must not only know this truth in our head, but we must also “**Reckon** ourselves dead to sin”. This involves getting the knowledge from our heads to our hearts as it were. Not just knowing the facts, but living according to them. We “reckon” ourselves dead to sin by living out in faith what God has promised to us. We are set free from sin, and therefore, we refuse to let it influence us any longer.

The third and final step that must be made is for us to **Relinquish** the control of our very selves over to The One Who is better capable of leading us in the paths of righteousness. We, who were once enslaved by sin, must give ourselves over to a new master. And that Master is none other than Christ, Himself. This is the very meaning of the word “LORD”. I am reminded here of that very famous verse that we will discover later in the book of *Romans*:

“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is LORD’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Romans 10:9**

So you see, it is not only by simply recognizing Jesus that we find the victory over sin, but by the Relinquishing of ourselves over to Him as LORD, that we are truly saved. The devil most certainly believes in Jesus, but he doesn’t BELONG to Him. Many people really seem to struggle with this idea of surrendering themselves fully to the lordship of Christ, but what they do not realize is that human beings were created to serve someone. And, as a result of that design, they will either serve sin and the devil or they will serve Christ and His righteousness. There is really no other choice in the matter. Either way, we will be “mastered” by something. No one is truly “independent”, no matter how much they choose to believe otherwise.

Today, we will focus our time on the last portion of **Romans 6** that deals specifically with the “relinquish” phase of our salvation experience. God has offered us eternal life as a free gift, but to receive this gift we must give up everything we are in order to make room for it. God has called us to something much more. Jesus called this gift “the pearl of great price” and describes the man who finds this treasure to be willing to give up all that he owns in order to obtain it (**Matthew 13:45-46**). God is calling us to accept this gift and be redeemed from being slaves to sin, to become a **Fighting Force** for righteousness, **Faithful Followers** of God’s Word, **Free and Fruitful** in The Holy Spirit. Please allow me to explain.

Fighting Force (For Righteousness)

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under The Law but under grace.” **Romans 6:12-14**

Paul had already explained to his readers that before they had trusted Christ they were in fact enemies of God. Everything that fallen man does in his flesh is offensive to a holy God. So, as such, while we were enslaved to the sinful nature that we inherited from Adam, we were actually using our bodies to war against God. One but needs to watch the television for a few moments to see exactly what Paul is talking about. Everything from lewdness and promiscuity to absolute hate and cruelty, man has built for himself a monument of his war against the righteousness of God. Just a brief glimpse of the daily news will suffice in demonstrating for us the total depravity of man. This world is both blinded by, and enslaved to, sin.

But God offers us so much more. Through Christ, our old nature, that was at war with God, has been crucified with Christ. And now instead of using all that we are to fight against God's holiness, we have been set apart to fight FOR His holiness. As I was preparing my outline for the children's lesson this week, I used their teachers as an example of those who would surrender their bodies as a "fighting force" for Christ.

This week, several in our church have used their eyes and minds to study God's Word. They have prayed for God to guide them today, as they use their mouths to teach our kids the truths that they have studied. They will use their arms to hug and encourage those precious kids, and they will use their ears to listen to them, and the list goes on. In short, they will employ their whole selves to be a fighting force for righteousness! This is exactly what someone who has relinquished themselves over to God will do. They allow God to use a body that was once enslaved by sinful passions for *His* glory! They have gone from being weapons for *un*righteousness to weapons of righteousness. And the result is glorious! Instead of making things worse, they are making a difference.

Do you want to make a difference? Then surrender the control of your body over to God and let Him use you for good. We live in world filled with those who live for themselves. They don't even realize that they are actually enslaved to sin. They think that they are independent, but they are sadly mistaken. They couldn't stop sinning even if they wanted to. This is why there are so many who jump from one addiction to the next, thinking they have "improved themselves", when the reality of it is, that they are still just as enslaved as ever. They go from one sin to another and do not see that sin still has dominion over them. What they need is to change masters; to surrender their bodies over to the lordship of Christ and become a force for righteousness. Then The Law will no longer condemn them, for they will be set free from sin and delivered over to grace. Which begs the question: Who are you fighting for this morning? Stop fighting against God in sin and selfish living and surrender yourselves over to Him and become a fighting force for good.

Faithful Followers (of the Word)

"What then? Should we sin because we are not under The Law but under grace? Absolutely not! Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey — either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness? But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over, and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. I am using a human analogy because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you offered the parts of yourselves as slaves to impurity, and to greater and greater lawlessness, so now offer them as slaves to righteousness, which results in sanctification."

Romans 6:15-19

Paul reiterates, that because we are saved by grace, and thereby, set free from our sinful natures, that living in sin is no longer an option for the child of God. Our very nature has been changed from the inside out. Christ has given us a new heart from which comes the sincere desire to please God (**vs. 17**). This new nature causes us to become faithful followers of God's Word. No longer do we try and appease God from an external sense of simply keeping the rules. Now, our new nature within us longs to become like Christ, and as such, the commands of God are no longer burdensome to us, but rather, desirable. Where we were once ruled by sin, we are now enslaved to righteousness.

Paul realizes that we have become so much more than just “slaves”. We are also children of God, but he uses the analogy of slavery here so his readers can fully grasp the reality that we have gone from serving sin to serving Christ. This is why he explains his pattern of speech by saying, “I am using a human analogy”. While it is true that we have gone from being slaves of sin to slaves of God, the grace of God has adopted us as sons and daughters, and Christ also calls us friends.

“I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father.” **John 15:15**

The real point that Paul is making here is that we are compelled to obey the commands of Christ, because we have been given a new nature. We are one with Christ, and therefore, we are obedient, as He was obedient even unto death (**Philippians 2:8**). This is why a Christian cannot, and will not, live a life that is characterized by sin, because their new nature simply will not condone it. While believers are occasionally influenced to sin, because of heeding the old dead nature of the flesh, they cannot live in a habitual sinful lifestyle. It simply is not possible to be born again of The Spirit and to be ruled by the flesh.

“Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because His seed remains in him, he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God.” **1 John 3:9**

The word that John uses for “seed” in this reference is “sperma” in the Greek. What this means is exactly what we spoke about last week. When a person has been baptized by The Spirit into Christ, then we are made one with The Son of God. Therefore, we too are part of The Son of God. And His nature is within us. We are part of God’s DNA so to speak. We long to obey the commands of Christ, because we are one with Christ. We have become faithful followers of The Word, by our very nature. Just as a sinner is enslaved to the nature he received from Adam, we are “enslaved” to the new nature that we have received in Christ Jesus. So, ask yourself this question, “Do I long to please my sin nature, or do I long to please God?” The answer will determine whether you have been born again, or not. It is *impossible* for a person to say, “I believe in Jesus”, and then refuse to obey His teachings. Faith and obedience go together. A person is either enslaved to sin, or has, thanks be to God’s grace, become a slave to righteousness.

Free and Fruitful (in The Spirit)

“For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness. So what fruit was produced then from the things you are now ashamed of? The outcome of those things is death. But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification — and the outcome is eternal life! For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.” **Romans 6:20-23**

What exactly is *The Bible* referring to when it uses the term “fruit”? Fruit, simply speaking, is the results produced from one’s lifestyle. Listen to the words of Jesus:

“Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So, you’ll recognize them by their fruit.” **Matthew 7:15-20**

Pretty self-explanatory is it not? Fruit, Biblically speaking, are the outward manifestations of one's inward self. Just as we know that a pear tree will produce pears, and an apple tree, apples, an evil heart will bring forth evil and a good heart brings forth good. All who are still under the influence of their sin nature will naturally produce sin. And Paul reminds those in the church of Rome that now that they have been enlightened by God's truth, those things that they used to do (their old fruits) have become a source of shame to them. No one, who has had their heart changed by God's grace, will ever be proud of the sins that they used to live in.

I've heard in my life many people stand in church and give "testimonies" of how wicked they were before knowing Christ. But every now and then, you will hear someone sound almost proud of how bad they were. I have a hard time believing that that person has ever truly been to the cross of Jesus Christ. For an encounter with Him will make us loathsome of what we once were, certainly not boastful. The main reason that a Christian can leave behind his life of sin is because his new nature makes it repulsive to him, not attractive. This is why faith in Christ ALWAYS leads to repentance of sin. Paul tells the Romans that when they were enslaved to sin they were in fact "free in regard to righteousness". This simply means that the sinner doesn't even have enough spiritual insight to see the error of their ways, but the truth of the gospel, when illuminated by The Holy Spirit brings conviction.

"Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away The Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in Me; about righteousness, because I am going to The Father and you will no longer see Me; and about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been judged." **John 16:7-11**

So there are two kinds of "fruit" being produced by the people of this world. First, there is the "fruit of *unrighteousness*", which is the direct results of unregenerate hearts that are hostile toward God. Their fruit is obvious according to Scripture:

"Now the works of the flesh are obvious: Sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things — as I warned you before — that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." **Galatians 5:19-21**

This is precisely the type of "Fruit" that once described us all, and it brought us only shame and death. But, there is another kind of fruit that is the result of being regenerated in Christ Jesus. It is the "Fruit of The Spirit", and it is the very personality or "essence" of Christ that is born out in everyone who has been baptized in Him.

"But the fruit of The Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Law is not against such things. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." **Galatians 5:22-24**

On the one hand, there is the master that brings forth death, and on the other, The One Who gives life. Or, as Paul so eloquently said it, so very long ago:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD." **Romans 6:23**

Which brings us to the most crucial question that we must ask ourselves this morning: ***"Whose slave are you?"*** Relinquish control over your life to The One Who is able to give you life everlasting and allow Him to truly be LORD of all.

And let all of His servants say... TRUTH!!!