

Romans 6:12–19

“Freed to Master Ourselves for God”

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What is true freedom? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Romans 6:12–19 prepares us for the beginning portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these eight verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that ~~true freedom isn’t to be welcome~~ to continue to be enslaved by what we feel like but rather liberated to be able to master every part of who we are in the holy and infinitely blessed service of God.

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 ◻ Romans 6:12–19

Questions from the Scripture text: What are we not to allow sin to do (v12)? What is the first step in denying sin (13a)? To whom are we instead to present ourselves—and every little part of who we are (13b)? Why are we able to succeed against sin (v14)? If we take having grace as our master (v15) as an excuse for sinning, then who is our real master (v16)? What is the way that God has delivered us from slavery to sin (v17)? What does freedom from sin look like (v18)? What must we do with every part of whom we are?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, and first song all come from Romans 6:12–19 so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *Take My Life and Let It Be*.

In 6:1–11, Scripture had gone hard after one of the worst ways that people abuse the truth about God’s saving sinners by grace. They use grace as an excuse for doing what our fleshiness wants. How can we actually think that freedom means doing whatever we feel like doing?

That’s called “obeying our lusts” and “allowing sin to reign in our mortal body” (v12).

So, how do we stop it? When we are fighting against sin, it feels like this giant, ugly monster (which it is) that we can only take down by some great heroic act. But that’s not what our passage describes. Our passage describes our battle against sin not by one great battle, but by a multitude of little ones.

Every word. Every action. Every moment of time. Everything that we do is an offering and a service. It’s either an offering and a service to sin or an offering and service to the Lord. There’s no neutral ground.

What does the life of freedom look like? Not like a life of doing whatever we want but of doing whatever God wants. A life of true freedom is a life of cheerful and willing obedience. v17 calls it “obeying from the heart.” It is also a life of theological obedience—actions that respond to facts about God and His work. That same verse reminds us that we obey “a form of doctrine that has been committed unto us.”

The life of freedom is also a life of slavery. That sounds counter-intuitive. Would it help if we called it a life of “devotion”? That is, ultimately, what v19 says. Slavery to righteousness is a slavery that is for holiness—it is complete devotion, relentless consecration, being set apart to the Lord.

This devotion is so complete, wholehearted, and full that the Scripture here calls it slavery. One cannot have two masters. So slavery means that every part of who we are, and every part of what we do, belongs to the Lord so much that we refuse to belong to anyone or anything else—least of all ourselves.

Yes, it grates upon our fleshly willfulness to call ourselves “slaves” to the Lord, but that’s why the Holy Spirit calls it “speaking in a human way” in v19. Slavery may be distasteful, but it’s really the best way to understand how completely we are to belong to the Lord. Let us give ourselves to Him—entirely, continually, forever!

In what parts of your life could you be more intentionally offering yourself as a slave to God for righteousness? What would it look like for you to do that?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You and praise You for redeeming us. Not only have You atoned for our guilt and made us righteous, but You have even saved us from slavery to ourselves! Forgive us for how often we return to our old, horrible master, rather than enjoy Your good and blessed service. Grant that Your Spirit would make us into devoted children like our Lord Jesus Christ, in Whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 “How Blessed the Man” or TPH538 “Take My Life, and Let It Be”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Romans chapter 6. Beginning in verse 12, I'm going through 19. These are God's words, Therefore do not let sin reign and your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts and do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness sin. But present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead and your members, as instruments of righteousness, to go out for sin.

Shall not have dominion over you. For you're not under law. But under grace, 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, So far, the reading of Gods inspired and an errant worked.

Freedom. True freedom is freedom from ourselves or at least, from our former self. There is a picture that you could develop of what he is describing here in this passage. And that is, you were slaves of sin as he as he says, in verse 17. But having set free from sin and no longer being your slave master, you became slaves of righteousness.

So it's like you're on a path and behind you is your old master sin and you know what, your old master looks like. He looks like you or at least how you feel. Like you look in your fleshliness. He looks like everything you would have wanted or desired or enjoyed apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.

But you have been freed from your old master and you're running to the one who freed you because he is going to be your new master. And if you look in the mirror of God's Word, which gives you promises about the result of his salvation, you will see not a picture of what you looked like, in your former self, but you will see a picture of Jesus Christ as he'll go on to say a couple chapters from now that those whom God, foreign you, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus, to be made to look like Jesus.

So there's this lie that are remaining. Sand are remaining. Fleshliness will tell ourselves and that is freedom means getting to do, whatever you feel like instead of doing whatever God says. And put those two things over against one another and perhaps, you will have that idea in your heart or you'll even hear people.

And if you start to talk about what God's word requires, what God's law requires till they'll use the term legalism to describe that This applying a term that really legalism is making the laws of men, apply instead of the laws of God or thinking that without grace, we could keep the laws of God, that God's law has in its power for us to keep it and that we don't need God's grace God's power in us, which is those are, what legalism really is.

But sometimes maybe in your own mind or heart or when you speak to someone else and you're trying to describe to them, what God's Word says God's word requires. They'll say legalism. And what they really mean is I want to be free from God's law and from God and from righteousness, to do, whatever I want.

And feel okay about it. And the apostle here and the Holy Spirit by the Apostles. Say as a very foolish thing to say because you're using words that might sound good to you. But what you're really saying is, I wish I could be enslaved again to my former slave master, self and sin.

And he's saying, grace, doesn't mean you are. Welcome to go back to your former master sin and self. Grace means you are able encouraged and guaranteed by God. In Jesus to be successful in, going forward to your new master. The Lord Jesus Christ. God Himself, and he doesn't want sin.

He wants righteousness and holiness. Those things that honor him. Those things that are good for you. And so he says, you also are a master, but you're not a master of what is right? And wrong You are in charge of your members. Now, that sounds that's kind of odd language for us.

But remember that God describes his church as a body with many members and even the local body, the local congregation is as a body with many members and there are different parts. Different people who make up what the body as a whole is like and all ought to work together to the same, to the same purposes that the Lord Jesus has given us.

Just so you need to be in charge of yourself and all the parts that make you up. And so it does apply to your hands or your members in. Your legs are your members and your eyes, and your tongue and yours and so on. He says, be in charge of every part of who you are, Marshall them out like a lesser lord.

Those of you who have studied feudalism, Marshall them out like a lesser lord in service of your master. So offer your hands as slaves unto God for righteousness and offer your feet to slaves and to God for righteousness, but you're made up of more than body parts. Aren't you?

You're made up of your thoughts and your emotion and your choices, your desires and your pleasures, all those things too. Are parts of who you are. They don't belong to sin anymore. It shall no longer have dominion over you. This passage says they belong to God. Who has purchased you and every part of who you are by himself by his own blood, the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so you are as you do your school or as you respond to circumstances, maybe when you find something difficult, the way that you think about having found it, difficult should be something that is offered to God as a slave for righteousness. And the freedom of the gospel, doesn't mean that you are.

Welcome to go on sinning, but that you are enabled to come at last and offer your members as slaves of righteousness, for holiness unto God. And so the Christian life and he says that he's speaking in human terms because of the weakness of our flesh. The Christian life is a sort of slavery, not the sort of slavery that is miserable and depressing but the sort of slavery that is necessary to finally bring this into true joy because there's only one master.

Who knows what that is. And if we have any other master, we will be left in misery. So, offer every part of who you are. Your thoughts, your time, your money, your everything unto God as a slave for righteousness. Very similar to what we were hearing from Exodus 13 last week about having his salvation, in Exodus 13 and his law.

Deuteronomy 6 as frontlets between our eyes and does bound to our hands that having been redeemed by God. For God would control how we think. Everything that we think. And what we do everything that we do, Let's pray and ask him to help us our Father. We thank you that you have not only given Christ for us and then to us by faith.

But that you've also given us your spirit that he is for us, the Spirit of sunship who makes our hearts cry out Abba Father, that we would love your instruction, your law and know that it is good. And liberating to us, we pray that you would help us to not be deceived by our remaining fleshliness and to thinking that being welcome to sin as some kind of freedom help us see it.

Lord, as a return to the form of slavery, which we were under apart from Christ so that we will hate it and reject it and fix our eyes firmly upon you forward. We pray that you would help each one of us to realize which one which ones of our members, which parts of who we are, are most out of line so that we can especially focus on bringing that aspect of who we are back into.

Directing aiming at the service of our Lord. Jesus, just your service our gracious. God and our heavenly Father, So Grant your spirit to do that ongoing work in our hearts in our lives. We ask and Jesus name. Amen