

POWER OVER PORNOGRAPHY

EXPOSITION OF ROMANS 6

Introduction: What is that which is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind and at the same time it is greatly misused? SEX. The problem is not sex, which is God's gift; it is sexual immorality, which is the abuse of sex. Pornography is the abuse of sex.

A lot of stuff that is available today is mostly self-help methods. They are not rooted in the Gospel of Christ Jesus. "Porn" is a child of the mother called "Lust". Since lust is the root cause of porn, it is only in the Gospel of Christ that people find true freedom.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6

I. TO OVERCOME SIN, KNOW THAT MAN IS ENSLAVED TO SIN AND IS UNDER THE DOMINION AND CONDEMNATION OF SIN

Romans 6:6 reveals that apart from the redemptive power of Christ Jesus, man is enslaved to sin. (*We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*)

Romans 6:14 reveals that apart from the saving grace of God, man is under the dominion of sin. (*For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*)

❖ In fact, **Genesis 8:21** [God] says, "the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth."

A. W. Tozer: "Each one of us is born into a tainted world, and we learn impurity from our cradles. We nurse it in our mother's milk; we breathe it in the very air. Our education deepens it and our experience confirms it — evil impurities everywhere. Everything is dirty; even our whitest white is dingy gray."

❖ **Jeremiah 13:23**, "Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil." (NIV)

Note: Man cannot change his sinful life. Man cannot save himself from sin. Lust is a powerful sensual enslavement.

Condemnation: Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death..."

Illustration: A prey animal's blood is wiped on knives or sharp rocks. Wolves cut themselves as they lick away the blood, bleeding to death through their mouths.

II. TO OVERCOME SIN, KNOW THAT CHRIST IS THE ONLY FORGIVER OF SIN AND DELIVERER FROM IT

- You cannot free yourself from sin by self-help methods.
- Principles of how to overcome sin cannot change you.
- Knowledge of dos and don'ts cannot change you.

Illustration: The story of the hefty Reynald and his brother, Edward (14 century).

Note: Some may come out of porn (self-help methods) due to selfish reasons (self-image and fear) but the root cause of porn, which is lust, they cannot have victory over it.

- ❖ **Romans 6:10**, “For the death he died he died to sin, once for all...”
- ❖ **Romans 5:8**, “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Explanation: The Gospel

Note: Christ had to die on the cross to pay the price for the forgiveness of our sin and deliverance from it. If man could save himself from sin, Christ did not have to die on the cross. The reason He went to the cross is to save us from sin.

- ❖ **Romans 6:23**, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Invitation: Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to receive the free gift of eternal life.

- ❖ **John 8:34, 36**, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

III. TO OVERCOME SIN, KNOW YOUR IDENTITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN CHRIST

The 18th century NT scholar, J.A. Bengel, rightly said, “The world knows neither Christ nor Christians, but neither do Christians really know themselves.”

- I. **Study and meditate on the Person Christ Jesus, especially His suffering on the Cross for our sins.**

Note: Freedom comes not by knowing the principles but the Person Christ. We must continue to behold Him even after believing in Him. Sin loses its power in the beholding of the Lord's face.

Observation: In the first 11 vs of Romans 6, Christ is mentioned in every verse, except in v.7

- ❖ **Romans 6:4**, “just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”
- ❖ **Romans 6:8**, “Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”
- ❖ **Romans 6:9**, “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.”
- ❖ **Romans 6:10**, “For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.”
- ❖ **I Thessalonians 4:3-5**, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God...”

Note: Your greatest need is not freedom from porn. Your greatest need is knowing God.

2. Know and believe and decide that you are dead to sin in Christ (positionally) and are not under the dominion of sin.

Note: Christ not only offers forgiveness of sin but also delivers us from the power of sin. He died for our sin on the cross so that we would die to sin.

- ❖ **Romans 6:1-3**, “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”
- ❖ **Romans 6:6-7**, “We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.”

St. Augustine: In his younger years he had indulged in great sins. After his conversion he met a woman who had been the sharer of his wicked follies. She had approached him winningly and said, to him “Augustine,” but he ran away from her with all speed. She called after him,

“Augustine it is I”. He turned around and said “But it is not I. The old Augustine is dead, and I am a new creature in Christ Jesus!”¹

John Gregory Mantle wrote, “There is a great difference between realizing, ‘On that Cross He was crucified for me,’ and ‘On that Cross I am crucified with Him.’ The one aspect brings us deliverance from sin’s condemnation, the other from sin’s power.”

- ❖ **Romans 6:14,** “For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”

Lie of the devil: You are a slave to sin. You cannot be free from it.

- ❖ **Romans 6:22,** “But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.”
- ❖ **Romans 6:11,** “For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. *So you also must consider (focus, decide) yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*”

Note: Being dead to sin and free from sin doesn’t mean we are free from the temptation to sin. Remembering who we are in Christ, our glorious position in Him, we must fight the temptation to sin.

Illustration: A woman I know was married to a man who was addicted to sexual immorality, bad habits and was physical abusive. She suffered his torture for a longtime. They were eventually divorced. Then a good man I know married this woman. He loved her and cared for her. She was free from the old abusive husband and is now under the headship of a new husband. If the old abusive husband returns, does he have any legal authority over this woman? Not at all. He may tempt but he has no power over her. In the same way, we are free from the dominion of sin and are under the lordship of Christ Jesus.

3. Live a new life in the resurrection power of Christ Jesus.

- ❖ **Romans 6:4,** “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

Note: Christ not only offers forgiveness of sin but also empowers us to live a holy life. The Christian life is not lived in one’s own strength. It is lived with the power that raised Christ from the dead. It is impossible to live a Christian life and walk in holiness by ourselves.

¹ http://www.preceptaustin.org/2corinthians_517_commentary

Illustration: Moses and the staff

- ❖ **2 Peter 1:3**, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence...”

4. Do not give opportunity to sin to reign your life.

- ❖ **Romans 6:12**, “Let not sin (do not permit sin) therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.”
- ❖ **Romans 6:13**, “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness.”

Remember: Sin has no power over you. The only power it has is the power that you give to it. Therefore, do not let sin reign your life. **YOU ARE STRONGER IN CHRIST THAN THE POWER OF SIN.**

Illustration: Ant and the spider.

Question: What do you do when you get a sexual video in your mobile phone?

Illustration: In the battlefield, what is the rule? Quickly kill the enemy before he kills you.

5. Be active in godly practices.

- ❖ **Romans 6:13**, “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”

Note: It is not enough to say “No” to sin. We must also be active in godly practices. Being neutral will pull you back to sin.

Illustration: Sadhu Sundar Singh carrying the fallen man saved him and the other person.

- ❖ **Romans 6:19**, “For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.”
 - Prayer
 - Meditation on God’s Word
 - Godly fellowship
 - Pursue holiness
 - Good works

Summarize the above points.

Questions:

1. What is man apart from Christ?
2. Who is Christ and what did He do to deliver us from sin?
3. What is your identity and responsibility in Christ?