

Perimeter Church
Sunday Equipping Class
Union with Christ

Romans 6 (ESV)

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 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. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. 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.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 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. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Genesis 3

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

1. What did the serpent offer to Adam and Eve?
2. On what authority was the enemy able to make this offer?
3. What was the diabolical trick the Satan accomplished by his deception?

Jesus and Paul agree: **Either you serve sin and die or you serve God and live.**

Romans 6:20-23

1. How do people attempt to get free of habits, lifestyles, or relationships of which they're deeply ashamed *without* submitting themselves to God?
2. How effective are these ways in the long run?

Westminster Larger Catechism – Question 77

“In [being justified through Christ], sin is pardoned; in [being sanctified], sin is subdued.”

Celebrate Recovery’s 12 Steps (excerpt)

1. We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable
2. We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God.

“Obedience for the sake of obedience is not our ultimate goal. Obedience driven by fear of what God might do (if we don’t obey) is not biblical obedience. Biblical obedience is driven by what God has already done on our behalf. The end result we’re after is not to love obedience and grow in compliance; it’s to love Jesus and grow in Christlikeness. The aim is not fall more and more in love with the blessings of obedience, but to fall more and more in love with Jesus. This is exactly what Jesus was getting at when he said, ‘*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*’ (John 14:15)”

- Jeff Norris in *Rooted: A Lifestyle of Radical Dependence*, p.89

Some Suggested Readings

Keep in Step with The Spirit, J.I. Packer

Practicing the Way, John Mark Comer

Rooted: A Lifestyle of Radical Dependence, Jeff Norris

Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation, Ruth Haley Barton

The Great Divorce, C.S. Lewis

The Message of Romans (BST Series), John R.W. Stott

Reflection

In what way may God be calling me to live under His grace this week?