

Study 6

SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 6

In The Group

- ◆ Why do you think many Christians lose their passion to see souls saved?
- ◆ In what ways can you help the others in your group to evangelise?
- ◆ How do you want others to pray for you?

Jesus Christ died to save sinners from God's wrath and eternal condemnation because of His great love us (Romans 5). For those who have received God's grace of salvation there is the peace of knowing that their sins are forgiven (Romans 5:1). And if our sins are forgiven - and will be forgiven - then surely God is no longer concerned with our sins? This issue is the theme of Romans chapter six. It appears that some were teaching that Christians could now *freely* sin without fear of divine wrath or condemnation. Quite possibly some had confused *grace* with *licence* (divine permission to sin). We still hear this confusion today.

1. Since sinners receive God's grace to cover their sin, wouldn't more sinning result in more grace? How does Paul deal with this claim in Romans 6:1-2?

The Apostle reminds the Romans of their baptism. Apart from reinforcing *believer's baptism* (since it is very difficult for an infant who was only a few weeks or months old to recall their own baptism!), Paul is reminding the Romans about what they were taught about water baptism.

2. Note Romans 6:3. In what way/s does water baptism identify with the death of Jesus Christ?

3. How does Romans 6:4 indicate that the early Christians practiced water baptism by ‘full immersion’ rather than merely sprinkling? In what way does this full-immersion water baptism relate to an aspect of Christ’s work in redemption?

4. How does Romans 6:4-5 indicate that water baptism symbolically speaks of our *future* hope? What is this *future* hope?

God hates sin. Sin is our chief enemy. It was to conquer *sin* and its destructive power which drove Christ to the Cross on our behalf. When we surrender to Christ, we “die to sin” (Romans 6:2). That is, we don’t live so that we can sin. As sin-damaged, fallen people, we will sin (note, 1Peter 2:20; 1John1:8). But as born-again, saved followers of Christ we seek to avoid sin and to live for Christ’s glory.

5. Why does Romans 6:5-7 describe our conversion to Christ as *dying*?

6. In what way is your following of Christ a ‘dying’ experience for you?

There is no higher joy and delight than living for God. Life without God leads to misery and hopelessness (Eph. 2:12). Sin deceives its victims into thinking that by sinning they will find fulfilment in life, true happiness, and deep satisfaction.

7. How does sin first present itself to its potential victims? (James 1:12-15)

Notice in James 1 how it refers to *desire*? Those who live for sin have a desire to sin. Those who live for Christ have a desire to please and honour Christ - therefore their desire is *not* to sin. If you are battling with temptation and finding that you are continually giving in to it, you have a “desire problem”.

8. What advice would you offer a fellow follower of Christ who admitted to continually yielding to a sin’s temptation?
-

Desire (often referred to in Scripture as our “heart”) is therefore not a reliable indicator of God’s will for a person! In fact, because our inbuilt bias toward sin is so great, our basic *desires* are utterly corrupted. Thus, the person who defends their sin by saying that *God made them with these desires* (“God made me this way”) has fallen prey to yet another lie of our Foe.

9. This is especially true when it comes to human sexuality. Our Enemy has greatly distorted the proper place of sexuality. How does Romans 6:12-14 speak to those battling with sexual sin (generally referred to in Scripture as “uncleanness”)?
-

10. How might you respond to the person claiming to be a believer in the Christ, yet willfully sinning, whom you lovingly challenge - yet responds that they are “not under law, but under grace” based on Romans 6:15?
-
-

We are all slaves - the question is: *to whom or what*? Biblically speaking, there are only *two* masters to whom every human being is ultimately a ‘slave’. The first is our Creator, God. The second is sin in its various deceptions.

11. Note what Romans 6:17 says about what happens to us when we become followers of Christ -
-

You’ll never know true freedom until you become a slave of Christ! *Freedom* does not mean *free to do whatever I want*, but *free to do what I should*. Sin keeps us enslaved to disobeying God. It prevents its victims from doing what they should. A ‘slave of righteousness’ is someone who has been set free from being a slave of sin and is now able to truly obey God.

Romans 6 stands as a dire warning to those who wilfully sin yet claim to be followers of Christ. At the very least it shows those who are not yet followers of Christ what the problem with the human condition is, and what the inevitable consequences will be for those who maintain sin as their master.

12. Sin pays *temporal* (does not last) wages. It also pays an *everlasting* wage. What are these wages? (Romans 6:21)

13. How is this contrasted with the wages of righteousness? What are the temporal and eternal wages of righteousness? (Romans 6:22)

14. In what way is Romans 6:23 both bad news and good news?

15. What does Romans 6 teach us about the Gospel?

16. Who can you share with this week, what you have now just learned?

17. In which part of this study did you sense God was speaking to *you*?

18. Write out your prayerful response to God -

Amen.