

# Freedom of Choice For The People of God

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## Romans 6:11-23

In this text we want to consider the responsibility of Christian believers as supervisors of their bodies and the deeds of the body. This subject is often approached by preachers through sermons on avoiding a list of sins. This kind of approach can make believers aware of the dangers and threats of sin, and of the outcomes of being tempted into transgression. However, believers can truly identify with what our text teaches about their role in manifesting the righteousness and holiness of God by how they conduct themselves. In looking at the subject of sin and righteousness from this angle, believers can be provoked to take personal charge of their lives and by the help of God they are inspired to become more accountable to the Lord for what they do with their lives and their mortal bodies.

**I. Rom 6:11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- ❖ Reckon (take an inventory, estimate, conclude)
  - A lot of kids come to the conclusion (reckon) at an early age that they don't like green peas or spinach. Because of that, they avoid eating them when their mother's aren't watching (the result).
  - Following a more adult wisdom, grownups often conclude that they won't waste their money on silly things, spend their time on pursuits that waste time, eat junk food that makes them sick, etc.
    - All these reckonings are arrived at because those who come to such conclusion have realized that the actions they reckon they won't be doing anymore cost them something.
    - The same principle applies to how the apostle instructs us to look at ourselves in relation to sin. We are to conclude that we are without life relative to sin...dead to sin.

**II. Rom 6:12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

- ❖ "Let not" is the biblical way of pointing us to the fact that we have the power of decision-making regarding such things as stated here.
  - You are given supervision over your body
  - Your responsibility is to not let sin...any sin...be a ruler of your mortal body
    - "reign" - There is a tyrannical king sitting in the heart of every lost person, ...it is called sin...and that king demands that they serve it.
      - And they do: **John 8:34** Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say**

unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant (*slave*) of sin.

- clarify "committeth"
- Sin would be such a ruler in us, if we obey it by fulfilling the lust that it directs

**III. Rom 6:13** Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

- ❖ **Neither yield:** it is your responsibility to prevent any member of your body from being used for unrighteousness
  - When our kids were small, we would sometimes tell them not to grab something, or pick something up because of the danger or because as youngsters they were not allowed to handle it. If they DID pick it up and we had promised discipline, we found one of the most effective ways to get a lesson across to them was to punish the member that committed the disobedience. So, we would take their hand in ours, talk to it about listening and then spank the hand smartly. The offending member was punished and the kid who owned the hand felt the pain of it.
- ❖ **But yield:** It is your responsibility to yield your whole self to God; and to supervise the use of the members of your body to make sure they are used as instruments of righteousness unto God.
  - There is one very important reason for this which points directly at the sacrifice Christ made for us, and should act as a great personal incentive, based on our love for our Savior: **1Cor. 6:20** - For ye are **bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
  - Then there is a reason given in our text for this kind of attitude about yourself, sin and righteousness: **Rom. 6:14** For **sin shall not have dominion over you**: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
    - It is the unmerited favor of God (grace) that has decreed that we will not be allowed to follow the slave-master called sin.
    - Note that this is not a request, but a decree. By this we know that if we will not follow the path pointed to by these scriptural instructions, God will take the initiative in our behalf to order our lives.

Which leads right in to our next verse:

**IV. Rom 6:15** What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

- ❖ Does this state of things mean we can do any kind of sin we could choose to do, without concern? Not even!
- ❖ The reason why this cannot be: **Rom 6:16** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of

sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

- ❖ Being a servant to sin brings death
- ❖ Being a servant to obedience (to the law of grace) brings righteousness

**V. Rom 6:17** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

- ❖ Were the servants of sin
- ❖ But ye have obeyed (from the heart) that form of doctrine (doctrine of gospel grace)
- ❖ Form: the idea of a mold or die (the mold is the image of God)
  - I once worked at a pottery shop where we would pour liquid clay into molds of various kinds and when the clay dried in those molds we would break them open and there would be the perfect clay form of what the mold had inside.

**V. Rom 6:18** Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

- ❖ Being then made free
- ❖ Ye became

**VI. Rom 6:19** I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

- ❖ Now yield your members (back to the doctrine of choices)
- ❖ The contrast as an argument in favor of our yielding to righteousness: **Rom 6:20** For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

**VII. Rom 6:21** What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

- ❖ Any fruit when you were such servants to sin?

**VIII. Rom 6:22** But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

- ❖ Free from sin
- ❖ Servants to God - bearing the fruit of God

**IX. Concluding observation**

- ❖ **Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.