

Freedom

KEY VERSES

Romans 6:12-18

KEY THEMES

Living the new life
Walking with God

TEACHING NOTES

Freedom

Justification

A moment in time

Ephesians 1:4-5, 13-14, Ephesians 2:8-9, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 2:13, Romans 8:1, 29, John 5:24, Hebrews 10:14

Sanctification

The process of growth

Not growing to become a child of God, but growing as a child of God

Works righteousness

INTRODUCTION
INNOCENCE
CONSCIENCE
HUMAN GOVT.
PROMISE
LAW
GRACE

 **Living out our faith (Galatians 2:20-21)****Freedom** ... from the power of sin (Romans 6:12-13) ... from works righteousness (Romans 6:14) **Freedom to choose (Romans 6:15-18)****Know, consider, and surrender****Lesson objective:**

To see that we walk with God by yielding ourselves to Him

PERSONAL STUDY

Study 1

Prepare your heart and mind

Open your time with God by asking Him to help you focus on what He has for you. Ask Him to help you see more clearly the new life you have in Christ.

How we see ourselves

In several of Paul's letters, he draws attention to the battle we are in as believers in Christ. This battle most often takes place in our mind. So who are we fighting against? We have two primary opponents; our sin nature and Satan. Both want to keep us from living in the new realities of what Christ has done for us. We have been set free to not give in to what our sin nature always wants. Let's take a look at one of these key truths and try to grasp what this means for us in our daily lives.



Read Romans 6:10-12

Think for a moment about the life of a slave. Their lives consisted of doing whatever their masters demanded of them. If they chose not to fulfill one of their master's requests they were often beaten so that it was clear they should just do as they were told. When slaves were set free in America due to the Emancipation Proclamation, they no longer had to be at the beck and call of their slave owners.

Paul is trying to teach us in Romans 6 that Christ has set us free. We no longer have to give in to our self-centered sin nature every time it makes a request of us. We have to remind ourselves of this truth over and over and walk in this new reality. You may be thinking, *so if this is true, why is it easier for me to live more like a slave to sin than walk in what the Spirit of God wants?* A couple reasons come to mind. First, it is always easier to give into what our flesh wants or just go with the flow of the culture around us. Ever tried walking upstream against the push of a flowing river? It's hard and it takes a determined effort. We have to daily, and sometimes hourly, decide we are going to choose to let God control our life instead of our sin nature.

Secondly, walking out our faith requires us to strengthen our minds so we can respond to God and walk in the new life He has given us. What do we fill our minds with? Are we daily strengthening our resolve to no longer live as if we were still slaves to our sin nature? David gives us a great insight on how he strengthened his heart and mind for God.

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11

How about you? In a typical week, what are you exposed to that feeds your sin nature? (*Internet sites, TV shows, certain people*)

What are some practical things you can do to reduce or eliminate your exposure to the things that draw you away from God's freedom and becoming more like Christ?

What do you include in your regular routine to renew your mind, remind yourself of your identity in Christ, and help you walk in what He has for you?

You will see the fruit of living a transformed life as you cut off the flow of things that encourage your sin nature and replace them with things that bolster your faith and remind you of God's truth.

Key verse

Put to memory Romans 6:11.

So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Prayer time

Tell God how thankful you are for setting you free from sin. Ask Him to help you live in this freedom and not let yourself become a slave to sin again. Ask Him to help you establish key spiritual practices in your life that will strengthen your heart and mind so you can more easily live your life for Him.

Session 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Begin your time with God by pondering the amazing freedom we have been given through Christ. Ask Him to help you focus on what He has for you.



Read Romans 6:11

In your own words, describe what Paul means when he says that you are *dead* to the power of sin and *alive* to God through Jesus Christ.

To be dead to sin is declarative. God has declared us righteous through the blood of Christ. It is not based on whether or not we *feel* we are dead to sin. To be dead to sin is an important truth we must believe in order to have victory over sin. Your relationship to sin changes the moment you place your faith in Jesus Christ. The old self is dead and you are made new and alive in Christ. Paul is encouraging the believer to act on their new identity in Christ.

What is the world's attitude towards sin? After you became a Christ follower, how did your attitude towards sin change?

We have been made righteous before God (justified) and our sins are forgiven; yet we are not without sin. Sin is always present but you do not have to let sin rule. We have the power of Christ's resurrection to help us overcome sin. We are being made holy (sanctified) by God. The transforming work in our life begins when we know the reality of who we are in Christ. Our walk of faith makes choices daily to either yield to a gracious loving God or serve the flesh.



Read Romans 6:12-13

What is our responsibility towards sin (verse12)?

In verse 13 Paul states we are *not to let any part of our bodies be used as an instrument of evil to serve sin*. The word *instrument* is a military term. It can be translated as *weapon*. How can what we do or say be either used as a *weapon* of unrighteousness for the enemy or as a weapon of righteousness for God? (Example: our mouths can either be used to speak words that encourage and are true or words that discourage and tear down.)

It would be inconsistent to say, "I am a Christ follower" and knowingly continue in sin. When we become Christ followers, the desire to live for self and pursue the flesh begins to be replaced with the desire to live for the glory of God. According to Romans 6:13b what should be our motivation to not let sin control us?

When we know the work that Christ did on the cross for us and the reality of what it means in our lives, we desire to dethrone sin in our lives and enthrone the Savior. Is there a sin you can begin to consciously dethrone today? Is there a habit or attitude that needs changed?

Begin the process of declaring that it no longer can rule in you. Enthroned the Savior by proclaiming that you have the power and authority in Christ Jesus to be victorious over that sin. What steps do you need to take to help you have victory over that struggle? (Example: Is there a sin-provoking circumstance you can remove yourself from?)

**Read Romans 6:14-15**

What encouragement do you receive in verse 14?

How do we live under the freedom?

It is by grace that we live under the freedom, not by works or following the law. It has nothing to do with performance, only the free gift of grace. When we live in light of the union we have with Christ, we are better equipped to overcome sin in our lives. The power of sin has been broken through the death and resurrection of Christ. Do you live in that reality?

What is the question Paul is asking in verse 15 and what is the answer?

God did not save us so that we could continue to sin and live in the flesh. We are expected to live a life that yields to the spirit of God. Do you live in a way that those around you see a life that surrenders to the spirit of God?

Key verse

As you continue working to memorize Romans 6:11 attempt to write it out from memory.

Prayer time

Spend some time in prayer expressing your gratitude for the work that Christ has done for you. Ask God to help you have victory over any sin He has called to your mind during this study. Pray for God to help you yield to the Spirit of God and die to the flesh.

PARENT GUIDE

Read Romans 6:11-15 together as a family.

These verses talk about surrendering to God. What does the word surrender mean?

(The definition of the word surrender is to give up possession of something, or give up control.)

When have you given up something? (Maybe sharing something you didn't want to share, forgiving someone you didn't feel like forgiving, etc.)

Knowing what surrender means, what do you think God is trying to tell us when He asks us to surrender to Him?

We all sin and continue to sin because we were born with a sinful nature. But when we accept Christ as our Savior, God forgives our sins. Does that mean we will no longer sin? No! We will continue to battle with our sinful nature. But the good news is that we have victory through Jesus Christ!

Having victory through Christ is doing what He wants us to do rather than what we want to do. (Being kind when we want to be mean, letting others go first when we want to go first, or sharing when you want something all to yourself.)

Let's think about today. Was there anything you did to give in to your sinful nature? Was there an example of when you had victory through Christ?

ADDITIONAL STUDY**Read Romans 6:18-23****Observation**

(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)

Interpretation

(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)

Application

(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)