



Sermon Discussion Guide

November 23, 2025 | Romans 6:15-23 | Jerrod

SUMMARY

Big Idea: Freedom from sin is not freedom to sin

Paul confronts the false idea that grace gives believers permission to sin. Instead, he insists that every person lives under a master; either sin or righteousness. We reveal our true master by the pattern of our obedience. Though believers were once enslaved to sin, God has transformed their hearts so that they now gladly obey the gospel's teaching. Because of this new allegiance, Christians must present every part of their lives to God for righteous use, not for impurity. Paul contrasts the two slaveries: sin brings shame, lawlessness, and ultimately death; but God's mastery brings freedom from sin, growth in holiness, and the reward of eternal life. The conclusion is unmistakable: sin always leads to death, but God freely gives eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We must as a church know that we have freedom from sin not freedom to sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Intro:

1. When you hear the word "slavery," what emotions, images, or ideas come to mind? Why do you think this metaphor is difficult or uncomfortable for many people today?
2. When the Bible uses the word "slave," what do you think it intends to communicate? How is the biblical idea similar to and different from; our modern understanding of slavery?

Read Romans 6:15-23

3. If we define "slavery" spiritually as being "ruled by or controlled by something," what are some things people today commonly submit to without realizing it?
4. Paul says we are either slaves of sin or slaves of righteousness. Why do you think Paul presents it as an either/or with no middle ground?
5. What do you think makes us believe there is "neutral ground" spiritually? Why does the idea of neutrality feel attractive or believable?
6. Does our culture encourage the idea that we can be spiritually neutral or "independent"? How have you seen that play out?

7. In your own words, how would you explain the difference between justification and sanctification?
- a. Follow-up: Why is it important not to confuse these two? What happens when Christians mix them up?

	Justification	Progressive Sanctification
Quality	Instantly declared righteous	Gradually made righteous
	Objective, judicial (non-experiential): legal, forensic position	Subjective, experiential: daily experience
	External: outside the believer	Internal: inside the believer
	Christ's righteousness imputed, received judicially	Christ's righteousness imparted, worked out experientially
	Instantly removes sin's guilt and penalty	Gradually removes sin's pollution and power
	Does not change character	Gradually transforms character
Quantity	All Christians share the same legal standing	Christians are at different stages of growth
Duration	A single, instantaneous completed act: once-for-all-time, never repeated	A continuing process: gradual, maturing, lifelong

8. What is one area of life where you feel the pull of an old master—old habits, old identity, old sins? What tends to pull you there?
9. What helps you remember that you are not under sin's rule anymore? What habits or practices strengthen your allegiance to Christ?
10. Where have you seen growth in obedience or holiness this year? How has God been at work producing fruit of righteousness in you?

KINGDOM IMPACT - MULTIPLY

1. **Pray, Think, and Act.** Share any developments and updates in the areas below:
- Reach** – That God would use you to lead 1 person to faith in Christ
 - Belong** – to multiply opportunities for others to be brought into community
 - Serve** – to begin serving, invite others into serving, or multiplying serving efforts by meeting needs or blessing neighbors or ministry partners together as a group
 - Gather** – to multiply the church (planting, revitalization, helping other churches)