

Small Group (Leader's Guide) – Oct 23/22 - Read Romans 6:15-7:6

1. Paul uses slavery as an analogy for grace. He says that grace frees us from slavery to sin and transfers us into slavery to righteousness. And so, in v. 19, Christians can present their members as slaves to righteousness. What does it mean and what does it look like for Christians to present their members as slaves to righteousness?

As slaves to sin, we presented our body parts to only do sinful actions. We gave into our sinful desires. But as slaves to righteousness, we can now present our body parts to do righteous actions. We can give into our righteous desires. For example, someone enslaved to sin can still do an act of generosity but it can be done with sinful motivations such as to manipulate someone or an outcome or to appear generous before others. Generosity is done with sinful desires. But, someone enslaved to righteousness is now able to do an act of generosity for its own sake, out of selflessness, to give glory to God, to benefit someone.

2. In v. 20-23, Paul distinguishes between slavery to sin and slavery to righteousness. What are the main differences between the two and what do these differences mean?

The two slaveries are not equal. Slavery to sin ultimately leads to death. That is, death in the physical sense but also spiritual death (i.e. separation from God). It's becoming less human and becoming less like God. Slavery to righteousness bears the fruit that leads to sanctification, which ends in eternal life. Sanctification means becoming like God in our nature and being, which is to inherit His divine nature and life in and for ourselves (i.e. eternal life).

3. Paul uses marriage as another analogy for grace. How does Paul explain the spiritual mechanism of grace using marriage?

The law of marriage binds spouses together so long as they are alive. But if one partner dies, the other is freed from the law of marriage, and is now available to marry or belong to another. In the same way, baptism makes Christians legally dead to the law, and so is freed to marry and belong to another, Jesus Christ.

4. In the sermon, Orvin describes another dynamic of discipleship as love. Love is the foundation of marriage. How do we as Christians serve God out of love rather than compulsion or obligation?

The practice of remembrance, rehearsal, and celebration assists us to uphold our love and affection for God. Healthy marriages practise celebrations of anniversary, date nights, gift giving, romance, words of affirmation. Similarly, Christians can practise rituals of remembrance such as the Eucharist, rituals of rehearsal such as spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and prayer, and celebration such as feasts and meals with other believers. These ritual actions and practices help Christians to remain in love to our obedience of God's laws, rather than in fear and compulsion to our obedience of the law.