

*Whose Slave Are You?**Romans 6:15-23*

Here then are two completely different lives, lives totally opposed to one another—the life of the old self, and the life of the new. They are what Jesus termed the broad road that leads to destruction, and the narrow road that leads to life. Paul calls them two slaveries. By birth we are slaves of sin; by grace and faith we have become slaves of God. The slavery of sin yields no return, except a steady, moral deterioration and finally death. The slavery of God yields the precious return of sanctification and finally eternal life. The argument of this section, then, is that our conversion—this act of yielding or surrender to God—leads to a status of slavery, and slavery involves obedience. John R. Stott

- I. The first reason we're not to offer ourselves to sin to obey its evil desires is because sin is slavery, and ***it would be very foolish*** to allow ourselves to be enslaved by sin once again when God's grace has set us free from its oppressive influence.

Rom. 6:16a

Eccl. 10:2-3 *The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. Even as he walks along the road the fool lacks sense and shows everyone how stupid he is.*

- II. The second reason we're not to offer ourselves to sin to obey its deceptive allurements is because it produces the rotten stench of spiritual, emotional, and physical death. Dedicated disciples of Christ are all about life, they know and understand from the heart that to embrace sin is to embrace a dead debilitated foe.

Rom. 6:2, 16b, 21

James 1:13-18

- III. The third reason we are not to offer ourselves to sin to obey whatever it might be that's enticing us is because we have become slaves to righteousness. We are bound to a different master, our obedience is to lead to righteous behavior and holiness, our allegiance is to be to Jesus Christ alone.

Rom. 6:17-20

1 Pet. 1:18-19

- IV. The fourth reason we are to keep ourselves from being enslaved by sin is because we have become slaves of God. As his bondservants, we are to give ourselves wholly to serving him alone. To serve any other master, which is sin, is an affront to his Lordship over us. The freedom we've been given in serving Jesus reaps the vibrant fruit of holiness (sanctification).

Rom. 6:22

δουλόω δουλόō metaph. give myself wholly to one's needs and service, make myself a bondman to him

"The only real freedom you are ever going to know, either in this life or in the life to come, is the freedom of serving Jesus Christ. And this means a life of righteousness. Anything else is really slavery, regardless of what the world may promise you through its lies and false teaching." Boice

- V. The fifth reason we are to keep ourselves from being enslaved by sin is because sin is cruel taskmaster who mercilessly beats and disfigures those who put themselves under its authority. God wants to spare us from sins consequences by offering emotional and spiritual vitality through the gift of eternal life.

Rom. 6:23

Jn. 17:3