

## Connection to Romans 6

The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans about the importance of sanctification and offering ourselves to God in obedience. Through our obedience to the gospel, we discover true peace.

## Introduction/Opening

We all serve something. Some serve work, some serve possessions, and some serve relationships. Let's be honest; some of us just simply serve ourselves. We all serve something; it's just a matter of what.

Whom or what do you serve?

That's the point Paul was making in Romans 6. He is addressing the idea that once we come to Christ, how we live doesn't matter. He emphatically rejects that idea that freedom from the old covenant implies freedom to sin. Moral decisions still matter for Christians; it is impossible for one to stay neutral. Every person has a master, either God or sin; in fact our decisions indicate who we serve.

## Outline

### 1. You Can Serve Sin (vv. 19-23).

A believer is not someone who cannot sin but someone who is no longer a slave to sin and given the ability and power to overcome sin. However, these verses show clearly that the Christian is faced with the decision, "Whom will we obey?" A believer ought to be as enthusiastic in yielding to the Lord as they were in yielding to sin.

### 2. You Can Serve Righteousness (vv. 22-23).

The Lord blesses believers with new life. Sin's power is broken, our sin-loving nature is buried, and we are no longer under sin's control! We can be certain of this in Christ: sin's power is broken!

The Lord has given us a new nature. We share life with Christ, our old selves are dead, and we are alive to God. We need to see ourselves as unresponsive to our old nature and alive to our new nature! Because the Lord has blessed us with a new nature, sin does not control us; we are free to obey Christ.

## Conclusion

Believers are free to choose between two masters. Each of these masters pays. Sin pays death. Christ pays eternal life. Salvation gives us a new life that begins on earth and continues forever with God. Whom or what will you serve?

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