

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 7, 2013

Passage: Romans 6:15-18

Memory Passage: Review Romans 6:15

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:15-23.** How is Paul's question in v. 15 different than his question in v. 1? How are the two questions the same? Is he asking the same question in a different way, similar questions, or completely different questions?
- (b) Why would Paul see the need to ask and answer this question? To what concept is it tied, and in what ways might it be abused (you should remind yourself of and interact with what it means to be under law and under grace in v. 14)?
- (c) Is Paul speaking of individual sins in v. 15 or sin as a reigning power (as he has in previous verses)? How do you know?
- (d) In what ways have you seen someone's claim of being under grace (and therefore not under the law) abused to justify sin? In what ways have *you* abused your status of being under grace (and therefore not under the law) to justify sin? Include your propensity to *act* this way even if you would never *say* this.
- (e) **Family: Read Rom. 6:14-15.** Review what it means to be "under law" and "under grace." (Under law = under the power & penalty of the law as part of being under Adam; under grace means that one is freed from the power & penalty of the law because of the grace of God shown through the work of Christ as part of the new age of being in Christ). Now ask, "How would you answer someone who said, 'Since I am no longer under law then I don't have to obey God's laws, correct?'" After receiving answers, point out the following Scriptures that teach about true believers being ones who obey God: Romans 1:5; 6:17-19; 13:8-10; 15:18; John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; 1 John 3:2; 2 John 6.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:15-23.** Observe (or underline) all the uses of the words, "slaves," "obedient," & "obedience." Why does Paul intensify his use of the slave-master imagery in this passage? Why does he think the idea of obedience is important?
- (b) In v. 16 Paul reminds his readers of what they should already know. According to v. 16 (and the rest of the passage for that matter) does Paul envision anyone who is not a slave? How does one identify the master to whom they are enslaved?
- (c) What 2 masters are presented in v. 16? Are these the only 2 masters to which one could be enslaved? How do you know? How does one become enslaved to these masters? What are the results of obeying each of these masters?
- (d) Are you surprised that "obedience" as a master is contrasted with the master of "sin?" What master would you have expected to be the opposite of "sin?" Why does Paul contrast these in this way (i.e. the master of obedience vs. sin)?
- (e) **Family:** Ask, "What does it mean to be a slave?" Possible answers: you are not free, you have to work hard, someone else owns you, you must obey your master, you must ask permission to do everything, etc. Record the answers given on your whiteboard. **Read Rom. 6:16.** Ask, "Who are the masters in this verse, who are the slaves, and what happens when a person is a slave to each of these masters?" (Masters: Sin & obedience; Slaves: humans; Results: death & righteousness) Now compare these verses with what you learned last week in 6:12-14, and remind them that those who are in Christ have been freed from the power & penalty of sin, and they are to fight the presence of sin because they are united with Christ. Those that do not know Christ are known by their habitual obedience to sin.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 6:15-23.** In v. 16, to what does "death" refer (e.g. spiritual, physical, eternal)? To what does "righteousness" refer (e.g. behavior, status, in this age or the next)?
- (b) What does the "but" that begins v. 17 tell us about how v. 17 relates to v. 16? Are verses 17 & 18 indicative or imperative? What does it mean for one to become "obedient from the heart?" How do believers get to this state of obedience?
- (c) To what does "the standard (form, pattern, imprint) of teaching" refer? When and how were the believers in Rome (and us) "committed" (handed over, transferred) to this teaching?
- (d) How do you explain the way in which both sides of these seemingly conflicting statements are true for those who are in Christ: You are no longer slaves of sin, but you are tempted to obey it as your master; you have been made obedient from the heart to the teachings of God, but you are sometimes obedient to sin instead; you have been made slaves of righteousness, but you are tempted to serve sin for unrighteousness?

(e) *Family*: **Read Jer. 31:33, Ez. 11:19-20, 36:26-27.** As you teach these passages, emphasize the point that in the New Covenant, God promises to (1) write (or imprint, mark) His law on our hearts, (2) cause us to walk in His statutes, (3) keep and obey His rules. Discuss what this means with regard to believers being slaves to sin or slaves to obedience (Rom. 6:16).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Jer. 31:33, Ez. 11:19-20, 36:26-27, & Rom. 6:17-18.** What *imperatives* are given to believers in these OT verses outlining the New Covenant? What *indicatives* does God promise? What do you learn about a believer's obedience to the law?

(b) Do these truths from the New Covenant change the way you understand Rom. 6:17-18, especially the phrase, "have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed?" Remember that the Greek word "standard" is the same word for "type" in 5:14 and carries the meaning "pattern, form, or type," and "were committed" is passive and has the idea of "were handed over, given over, transferred" (cf. Rom. 1:24 where God "gave them up").

(c) Why does the truth Paul presents in 6:17-18 cause him to be thankful to God (find the answer in the context)? Why should it cause *you* to be thankful to God, not only for your salvation, but also for the salvation of everyone?

(d) *Family*: **Read Rom. 6:17-18.** Using the imagery of the Lego castle, kings, and servants you built last week, as well as what you learned about the New Covenant last night, explain these verses. Ask questions to gauge everyone's understanding.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 6:15-23.** What is the connection between being "set free from sin" and becoming "slaves of righteousness?"

(b) Explain in detail the 2 types of lives of which Paul speaks when he uses the terms "slaves to sin" and "slaves to obedience" (v. 16), also described as "slaves of/to righteousness" (vs. 18-19) and "slaves to God" (v. 22).

(c) Return to v. 15 and remind yourself of the question Paul has been answering in these verses. How do verses 16-18 explain the question and answer Paul presents in v. 15?

(d) Think back on the last week of your life and remember any time that you either sinned because you were pragmatically acting as though you did not need to obey God's commands ("not under the law") or because you were pragmatically acting as though sin did not matter to God because He is a God of grace ("but under grace"). Write down at least three ways you can combat these temptations the next time they arise so that you "present your members to God for righteousness" rather than "present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness" (6:13).

(e) *Family*: Use this lesson to review your family's understanding of key words from Romans. Prepare cards that have a word on one side and the definition on the other. Use them like flash cards to reinforce the meanings of these important words from Romans: sin, righteousness, law, slave, justification, propitiation, death, sanctification, in Adam, in Christ, gospel, wrath, faith, glory of God, imputed (credited), reconciled (and there are others you could use if you desire).

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Slaves of Righteousness

In Romans 6:15-18 Paul presents a 4-part argument proving why those under grace cannot practice habitual sin.