

DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 6:15–19
October 1, 2017

As we've seen, Romans 6 is an assault against antinomianism. Paul continues his line of thinking in Romans 6:15–19 by illustrating our fight against sin as slavery to righteousness. This is the undergirding truth of Romans 6 (and the Bible): following God is the purest joy a human can ever know.

1. Paul starts this section by repeating, in large part, what he wrote in the beginning of Romans 6, which is essentially the question, "Should we continue to sin?" Taken at face value, this question seems preposterous. However, in light of the amazing grace Paul has been describing, one can see how the question is needed.

- Since grace doesn't require anything of us to save us, why then should we care about resisting sin?
- How does your answer to the previous question bring more joy to you?
- How does your answer to the first question glorify God?

2. In verse 16, Paul brings out the indicative statement "if you present." Read Romans 8:37–39.

- In light of Romans 8:37–39 and God's power to keep those that he has saved, why do you think Paul says that we can present ourselves as "slaves...of sin, which leads to death"?
- Next, read Philippians 2:12–13 and note how Paul says that we ought to "work out [our] salvation with fear and trembling" and that "it is God who works in you, both to will and to work." Do you see the combination of human responsibility and divine sovereignty (we must work, yet God does the work)? How does this truth in your head affect the way you use your hands? (What does this cause you to do?)

3. Verses 17–18 speaks about our being "obedient" and "set free" in the past tense. So far, we've seen Paul tell us that we don't need to work to be saved, but we better work. Now, he says that we need to avoid slavery to sin, but we've been set free. This can make your head spin.

- Think about your experiences of struggle with sin, and your experiences of overcoming sin. Do you see how your experience lines up with what Paul is saying?
- In 1 Corinthians 3:9, Paul says that he and Apollos are "God's fellow workers" in terms of evangelism and ministry. Obviously, Paul isn't saying he and Apollos are in any way equal with God. What he is saying is that, by God's grace, Paul and Apollos get to partake in the work of God. God doesn't need Paul and Apollos. Paul and Apollos get to be part of what God is doing because God is gracious. Do you think we could use this language when referring to our own sanctification? (Think of a 3-year-old boy helping his father rebuild a car engine. He'll get in the way more than he'll help, but the father takes joy in "working" with his son.)
- Do you feel the impetus (momentum) to fight sin in light of the fact that God is giving us the opportunity – the honor – to fight against what He hates? Why or why not?