

## “Celebrating the Gift of Freedom”

Romans 6:15-23

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In order to experience and celebrate our freedom in Christ we must...

1. **Recognize that sin leads to slavery and bondage.  
(Romans 6:16, 17, 20; John 8:34; 2 Peter 2:19)**

“First, *it is possible to be a slave to something and think you are free*. This is the predicament of the lost. They slavishly serve something they think will bring them fulfillment or eliminate their problems. Money, career, sex, relationships, adventure, power, notoriety, education, achievement, even addictions...the idols of this world are legion. I see people sacrifice to keep their god alive and fear what life will be if—or when—the object of their hope passes away. And I stand amazed at this inability to comprehend the extent of their slavery, all the while trying to convince themselves and others that life is good just the way it is.”

Charles R. Swindoll, *Insights on Romans*,  
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001, pp. 145, 146.

2. **Understand we are free from sin. (Romans 6:18, 22; John 8:36)**

“The believer, having been freed from bondage to sin—released from his or her addiction to sin, as it were—may now look to the Creator for fulfillment. While the pull of sin is down, the cycle of sanctification draws the believer closer to God. Increasing dependence on the Lord provides meaningful satisfaction and, ironically, greater freedom.”

Charles R. Swindoll, *Insights on Romans*,  
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001, p. 144.

3. **Offer ourselves as slaves to God. (Romans 6:16, 19, 21, 22)**

“Slavery to God is the greatest freedom a human can ever know. When God created Adam and Eve, they perfectly bore their Creator’s image. They lived in perfect harmony with their created purpose, which was to live in limitless communion with Him, to enjoy uninhibited intimacy with one another, and to rule over the rest of creation as His vice-regents. Never was humankind so free as when they lived in harmony with their created purpose, or as Paul chooses to put it, ‘slaves to righteousness’ ...Christ’s sacrificial death creates the potential for us to recapture some of the innocence and freedom of Eden.”

Charles R. Swindoll, *Insights on Romans*,  
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001, pp. 142, 143.

What is God saying to me this morning?

- A. Am I believing any of the following lies?
  1. Living for myself on my terms equals freedom.
  2. I will never have victory over a specific sin in my life.
  3. If I offer myself to God, I will lose my freedom.

B. Who or what am I serving?

Who is my master?

C. What keeps me from offering myself as a slave to God?

D. Since God is my master and I'm His slave, what step of obedience is He asking me to take?