

**INTRODUCTION - ROMANS 6:1-23**

Some of us may recall a time at school recess or playing a game in the neighborhood with a group of friends that required teams to be selected. Back-and-forth, the captains called the names of the remaining kids until both teams were full or there were no more people to select. Everyone wanted to hear their name called. The only mystery would be who would be chosen for which team. Well, when it comes to Romans chapter 6, something of an opposite process occurs. In this lesson both team captains are calling the same names to be on their team. There is no mystery about who the captains will select because they both want everyone. Instead, the mystery is which team captain will you pick?

**Keep up:** complete N.T. Wright, *Romans: 18 Studies for Individuals and Groups*, p 38-41.

**Deciding where to stand in the light of Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 6:1-4** → **Make your choice.** On which road will you travel through life?

Option 1

- By birth (natural inclination)
- Bound by the law
- Enslaved to sin
- Dead in sin

Option 2

- By grace (spiritual inclination)
- Bound by grace
- Enslaved by God
- Alive in Christ

Option 1 permits persons to continue to live as they are/were without Jesus Christ. It is a natural and an easy way to live. But the catch is in 6:2--that is, if you are a believer how can Option 1 remain a consideration? The assumption is that believers will have chosen Option 2. It is a spiritual way that requires a reorientation of life that will, according to Matthew 7:13, lead to life.

**Romans 6:5-14**→ **What it means to unite with Christ**

In this section, Paul answers his own questions by offering ways for believers to understand what it means to unite with Christ. By taking three specific actions -- i.e., reckoning (v. 11), don't let (v. 12), and present (v. 13) -- in order to unite with Christ. By doing these, we can:

1. Anticipate a \_\_\_\_\_ like His because we have believed in His death.
2. Be free from slavery to \_\_\_\_\_ because our old self was \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.
3. Be certain that we will \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ because we have also \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.
4. Know that \_\_\_\_\_ (or, sin) has no dominion (\_\_\_\_\_) over Christ.
5. Know that Jesus's death on Calvary was needed only \_\_\_\_\_ for all time and that His death brings new life for all who believe (*see also Heb 7:27; 9:25-28*).

Since all of the above is true, we are able to fully embrace the blessings of 6:12-14. Just as Jesus has saved us from sin, we have also been saved to new life. Even with the setbacks we experience along the way, by grace through faith, we have the power to reject sin's attempts to dominate use. This is what justification avails to us. Thinking legally, because we are justified in Jesus Christ we are set free to walk away from sin and into life with Christ.

**Romans 6:15-23**

*“Those who revered the law and failed, as did everyone, to keep it, were in their breaking of the law exhibiting their “slavery” to sin. But those who through the grace of God had become united with Christ had been made “free from sin” and had traded their slavery to sin for a slavery to Christ and the righteousness for which He stands.”<sup>1</sup>*

Briscoe’s quote captures Paul’s argument in this final section of Romans 6. In short, believers are not free to continue in sin because of our relationship with Jesus. This *does not mean that we will not sin*, but it *does mean that we are not free to sin*. This is the message of the Gospel which refers to as “the form of teaching to which you were entrusted” (6:17).

Let’s be clear!

- Members (6:19) = bodies, body parts. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Slaves to sin...free in regard to righteousness (6:20) = you were not “bought” by righteousness and therefore not bound to it. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Wages of sin...free gift of God (6:23) → sin will pay you what you deserve, but God will give you what you do not earn. \_\_\_\_\_  
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<sup>1</sup> D. Stuart Briscoe. “Romans 6:15-13” in Lloyd J. Ogilvie (gen. ed.). *The Communicator’s Commentary Series*, Vol. 6, *Romans* (Dallas: Word, Publishing 1982), p. 139.