



When in Rome: Dependent Independence

Embracing freedom by obeying God

By Tim LaTour, June 16, 2024

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 ESV

Our imperfect faith  pleases our perfect God  .

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6-8 ESV

Jesus took our place  .

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:20-21 ESV

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death?

Romans 6:1-3 ESV

Respect  the kindness of God.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 6:12-14 ESV

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death,

or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Romans 6:15-18 ESV

Serving sin is easy , but destructive .

Serving righteousness is demanding , but rewarding .

True freedom comes from disciplined obedience .

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What practical steps can we take to live out our new identity in Christ, resisting sin and pursuing righteousness?
2. How does the concept of being slaves to righteousness rather than slaves to sin shape our decisions and behaviours?