

Title: Does Sin Control you?

Text: Romans 6:¹²~~11~~-23

Open your Bibles, please, to Romans chapter 6. Romans chapter 6 beginning with Vs 11. Our subject: DOES SIN CONTROL YOU? *The sin problem Answer to sin about*

(Read 6:¹²~~11~~-23)

Pfayer

Father we thank you for your word. And we would pray that your Holy Spirit would make our interest and our sensitivity to the Word of God real. We know that the area we are talking about today is a personal problem to every believer's life. So we would pray that you would help us to give careful attention to the Word. And we thank you in Jesus name....Amen.

+++++

I know, that I am talking about what you are concerned about this morning. Because 99 and 44 one hundredth percent out of every 100 Christians have a little problem in their life. It is called SIN... *It is the sin problem*

I don't know what the other 66/100 have in their life..But I do know ~~that~~ that we all have a sin problem. And Romans 6 was written to us about this sin problem. *Because* God does not want us to be controlled by sin.

and I have heard a lot of ~~messages~~ *sermons* on Romans 6. And perhaps you are in the same position. But I am more concerned about us understanding Romans 6 than I am about us hearing another ~~message~~ *sermon* on Romans 6....

You know, I must confess that most of my life I have not understood Romans 6.... Because I always thought that there were some little decisions that ~~we~~ *we could* make, either walking down and aisle, or smiling in some way, by which ~~we~~ *we* it guaranteed that some how you would live victoriously over sin. And you know, that is not true....

Now, we all know that. But it is like we can't face it. Like, we can't be honest with it because we might be considered unspiritual. ~~So~~ *So*, what is the key to having victory over sin? ~~That is what I want to talk about today.~~ This is very important.

2 Often times I will meet a person who will say, "I am not sure that I am ~~saved~~ *saved*?"

And you know, 99 out of 100 times when a person says that, there is sin in his life.....

You meet a husband and a wife and they are not getting along. You know, about 99 out off 100 times it is because there is sin in their life. Christians often say, " I am not as effective as I want to be in witnessing and doing what I know God wants me to do. There must be something missing." You know, 99 ot off a hundred times there is sin in the life. You see, this is a very, very important matter.

Does sin control you? ^{IF} God doesn't want sin to control ~~you~~. ~~But~~, what do we do with sin? How do we handle this problem? And that is what we are going to talk about today. ^(2C) Our RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FACTS THAT WE LEARNED THESE PAST TWO WEEKS UNDER THREE PRINCIPLES: BAPTISM...CRUCIFIXION...AND RESURRECTION...God's three principles of teaching deliverance from sin.

So, let's look at our responsibility to those facts. *Well, These verses Teach Three Responsibilities*

(1D) Number one, in verses 12 to 14 we have the responsibility to refuse to be controlled by sin . :You see, God does not intend for us to be controlled by sin. And we are to refuse to be dominated by sin.

Now, to understand how this works there are three things that I ^{believe} ~~want~~ you ^{need to apply to your life} ~~to see,~~

(1E) The First thing that I want you to see, in Vs 12, deals with the presence of sin in your life. Vs 12 says..."Therefsore do not let sin reign in your mortal body." *IT ASSUME SIN IS PRESENT IN YOUR LIFE. YOU MUST RECOGNIZE THAT SIN IS PRESENT.*

Now, you are not going to get rid of sin. Sin is around. And sin will be around until Jesus comes again. Then sin will be no more. We mentioned this last week. Sin and temptation are going to be here. You are going to face it.

The issue, here, according to vs 12, is that you should not obey it. It is a matter of obeying by way of habit of life the sin problem. ~~In other words, you are trapped by sin. You are controlled by it. And you are now a servant of sin. That is what He is talking about.~~ *And The Bible is saying* so, do not let this happen.

(2E) And this brings us to the second issue. In Vs 13 Pauls says
that in refusing to be ~~dominated~~ ^{controled} by sin, we must present ourselves to God.
The presentation of yourself to God is absolutely necessary in order
to have victory over sin.

Now, what does it mean to present yourself to God? Look at Vs 13..
"and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments
of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead
and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

Now, what does that mean: What does it mean to present yourself to God?
I have ask people that question and it is amazing the answers I receive.

One person said, "Well, it means to dedicate yourself to God." Terrific:
But what does that mean?

Another person says, "It means to commit yourself to God." Great! but
what does that mean?

Another person says that it means to "give up and let go." O.K...it
sounds spiritual. But how do you do that?

What are the specifics...We say this is what we ought to do, but no one
knows ^{How} ~~what~~ to do. ^{It} We hear sermons that say we ought to yield, to dedicate,
to give, to commit. And you say, "I HAVE ALREADY DONE THAT." So, you leave
the service and you are just as controled with sin as you ever were. And thus,
there is a critability gap, you see. I mean, can we really believe that we
can be victorious over sin? Or, are we just talking? Are we just sermonizing?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD?

By way of understanding, you need to know the meaning of the Greek word.
And please excuse me for saying that. But it is important. The Greek word
translated "present" means "to stand along side of." That is what it means.
"TO STAND ALONG SIDE OF"..

Now, there are at least 20 times in the N.T. where this word "present"
is used in the sense of our doing something. And I want to give you a couple
of examples to see if you can figure out the application.

Turn, please, to Luke chapter 2. The Gospel of Luke chapter 2. This is the time in the life of our Lord when Mary and Joseph presented him to the elders in the Temple. Luke chapter 2 verse 21...

"And when eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord."

Now, that word "present", vs 22, is the same word we find in Romans 6:13. They presented him to the Lord. And here is the explanation. Vs 23...

"(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every first born male that opens the womb shall be called Holy to the Lord'), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.'"

Now, this was the requirement of the law. The first born son was presented to the Lord. The parents had to do this. *A sacrifice was offered.*

Now, what were they doing that for? They were saying in their hearts, as the explanation is found in the O.T., that God can use this ^{body} ~~boy~~ in whatever way He see fit. We have ^{given} ~~give~~ up our rights to that child to the Lord. And a sacrifice was made to honor ^{that commitment} ~~the occasion~~. Do you know, that is just what the Apostle Paul was saying in Romans chapter 12.

(2) ^{Take} ~~Take~~ your Bibles and turn to Romans chapter 12. Romans 12:1. The same idea, of parants in the O.T. bringing their child to ^{present} ~~dedicate~~ him to the Lord. ~~To present him to the Lord.~~ Romans 12:1 says "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present". That is the same word used in Romans 6:13(yield-KJ). "to present your bodies"....

Did you know that God never said "to present" your souls to the Lord? Or, to present your mind to the Lord? Or, to present your heart to the Lord?

He is talking about our physical bodies. And that is very important to get into our heads, right now.

You will never have control over sin unless you understand that God wants the body brought under control. Present your bodies unto the Lord.... ^{How} ~~how~~?.... "as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

You see, this is the same thing the O.T. parant, did when ^{They} ~~they~~ brought their children to the Lord. Present this child to the Lord. And they offered a sacrifice. Paul takes both ideas and says to all chrisitians: I want you to present your bodies to the Lord as a sacrifice. And that is service... worshiping the Lord when you do it....

(3) O.K. now, will you turn to Acts chapter 23. The book of Acts chapter 23 and look at verse 23 and 24. Here is the best example I have found of the usage of the word "yield" or "present", to explain to me, in a particulary way, what it means for me to come and present myself to God. Acts 23:23-24(Read)

Now, look at that word "provide" in Vs 24. Quesss what? That is the same word translated "present" or "Yield" in Romans 6:13....

So, what is the point? Present has the idea of presenting yourself to be used...Provide mounts....yield mounts....present mounts....so that he might set on them.....

Oh.....I see...So what God is saying to ^{us} is to stand ^{ourselves} ~~myself~~ along side of him with a firm realization that He can use ^{us} ~~me~~ in what ever way He sees fit. That a sacrifice is being made, like the sacrifice of parents in the O.T. ^{preparing} ~~dedicating~~ their child to the Lord, saying, "listen, I gave him up. He is now the Lord's. God can do what ever he wants to with that child,." And we are to do the same. Every christian. It is not a suggestion. But all believers are to present, to stand yourself along side of God. And we are to say, "God you may use this body in what ever way you see fit."

SOFTLY

^{out} Now, I would be very careful about that decision if I were you. It might effect your job, it might effect the way you are living, your attitudes,...

Did you know that ~~the~~ particular application of how to have victory daily in your life ^{can not} go into force until you have made this ~~commitment~~ commitment. There is no way that it will happen. You cannot say, that you want victory over sin while there is some area of your life that you refuse to give to God. You cannot say to God, "God, use me. But not these three areas of my life."

And ^{Dear Friend} folks, this decision is not talking about missionary service or being called into the ministry. ~~It is not talking about being in full time vocation for God.~~ It is talking about victory over sin. It is talking about every believer who wants to have victory, peace of mind, the joy, the love, the fruitfulness of his life as the product of a life that is not controlled by sin. I don't want to be controlled by sin. To feel guilty, unhappy, bitter, discouraged, defeated, I don't want that. ^{But when it happens, what is the issue} ~~But I am. So what do I do?~~

First thing....and I challenge you christian...have you ever really said to God that He can use you in what ever ~~way~~ way He wants. That there is absolutely nothing that you would hold back from God... ^{I don't think you have made that decision}

If you haven't made that commitment, then don't expect to have ~~that~~ the application true in your life if you want victory. If there is something you are holding on to and you know it, God knows it, and you ^{not willing to let it go} ~~won't let go of it~~, don't expect victory to happen. You must present yourself, stand yourself along side of God, ~~and a~~ ^{and} ~~beast of burden~~ and say, "God, however you want to use me, I am ready to be use." And that is a very, very important issue....

Now, will you turn to 2 Timothy 2:15. The most vivid and important text that I have studied on this matter of yielding is found in 2 Timothy 2:15. Because it deals with the specifics of what it is that God wants you to do when you yield. When you present, or when you stand along side of the Lord in terms of victory..... @@2t Timothy 2:15 says "be diligent to present ~~your~~ yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."

Did you notice what it says? "BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED." Give all diligence to yield, to present yourself unto God....HOW? WHAT FOR?.. IN WHAT WAY?.....ANSWER Present yourself a workman.

And the text is very clear here. You are presenting yourself to God as a workman....WHAT KIND OF A WORKMAN?.....One who is handling accurately the word of truth....You are working in the Wordddd. You are going to the Wordddd for your victory. Understanding that this is the cleansing agent that God has given to you. He is saying, "Be diligent Christian. Give all diligence. To present yourself as a workman who is in the Word.

And all of a sudden it dawns on my thick brain that it is a continual cop-out on the part of Christians when we ignore the only cleansing agent God has provide for victory. Now you are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.

When Paul talks about yielding or presenting he is talking about ~~presenting~~ presenting yourself as a workman of the Word. I am going to study the Book because I know that if I hid the Word of God in my heart it is going to keep me from sin.

The Psalmist wrote: "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to thy word. They word I have hid in my heart, that I may not sin against thee."

What does God want you to yield yourself to? Not promising to go to Africa or some foregien mission field. He is not talking about that. As wonderful as that would be. And if that is where it leads you, then praise God But that is not the issue. The issue is having victory in our lives over sin. And God is saying to give all diligence to present yourself a workman in the Word.

We are looking at our first which

Now, let's come back to Romans chapter 6. ~~Our first~~ responsibility:

is to refuse to be ~~dominated~~ ^{Controlled} by sin. (3E) And the third issue is mentioned in Vs 14: the issue of God's grace. The issue of God's grace.

You know, I am just thrilled about how often the Word of God reminds us about God's wonderful grace. We can get so discouraged about sin in our life. And yet, God constantly reminds us of the issue of grace. Vs 14 say... "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace." Sin will not Lord it over you. It will not rule over you..WHY? Because you are not under law, but under grace. PRAISE GOD.

(2D) Now, beginning with Vs 15 we have the second area in which we are responsible to those facts. And that is in recognizing the importance of obedience. Did you know that the words "present" and "obey" are brought together as one? You see, you cannot obey until you present. If you present yourself you will obey. It is a beautiful thing.

So, our responsibility as a christian is to recognize the importance of obedience. Now, I want to share four things with you.

(1E) Number one, in Vs 15 we find that the problem is stated once again. Paul mentioned the problem back in Vs 1. And now he mentioned it again. He says, Vs 15, "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace?..... In other words, isn't it O.K. to sin? After all, we are not under law, but under grace. God has forgiven us of all sin. Once saved, always saved. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. So, why not go on sinning? WHAT WOULD YOUR ANSWERE BE?

Well, I hope it would be the same as the Apostle Paul's...Paul says... "May it never be!".....NOW WHY? Because the Bible teaches that you will pay an all full price if you do.

~~_____ will pay _____ price _____~~

You see, God is dealing with the matter of our personal happiness, now. Our victory over sin, now. If God chooses to take you home today and you die, then really this chapter has no application to you, except to remind you that you are free from all the consequences of sin....PRAISE THE LORD. You are forgiven by God.

out
Then, can we conclude that it is alright to go out and continue to sin?
To gossip - to gossip etc
I am going to tell you that if you do that, you are going to destroy your life. You are going to lose your happiness. You are going to be unfruitful and ineffective and not have peace of mind and joy. You are going to be a troubled, discouraged person.

You see, God is talking about how to be effective as a believer. Not dealing with the consequences of your salvation.

2 EPH *secondly*
Vs 16, He tells us that there is a pattern you can expect from ~~yielding~~ *obedience*.

A pattern you can expect. This is a key verse, ~~also~~, in this chapter.

Vs 16 says, "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey."

Not you are going to be. You are. whoever you ~~yielded to~~ *present yourself to*, you are. "either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"

In other words, the essential *question* ~~fact~~ is: TO WHOM ARE YOU PRESENTING YOURSELF? The results are that obeying leads to slavery. And you automatically obey whoever you presented yourself to.

Now, if I can sort of demonstrate up here in the public it might clear up the matter. Over here on one side let's suppose this is sin...dirty, rotten, awful sin.....(right where ~~you~~ *Public* is setting)....

And over here is God. And you as a believer are standing here in the middle, between this dirty, rotten sin and God.

Now, somewhere ~~out here~~ *in your* is ~~Satan~~ *you see nature his son nature*. And ~~he~~ is saying to you, "Hey, have you noticed how beautiful sin is? Have you? This dirty, rotten, awful sin."

So, you are being tempted from without....But you are standing in the middle. And to whom you ~~yield~~ *present* yourself that will automatically produce slavery....

So, under the temptation of ~~Satan~~ ^{his nature} ~~he~~ ^{you are} is saying, "Well, uh, I have victory in the Lord. I can handle it, I will go over and see what it is like. O.K...So, you go over and you stand along side of the sin to see if it is going to get you..."

Do you know what is going to happen? It gets you.....~~You see~~.....

That is what the word ~~process~~ ^{you present} means. To stand along side of the sin,

Do you know what the consequences will be? You will obey it. You ~~are~~ ^{already} are a slave to it. You already made your choose. *you already made your choose*

So, what is your responsibility. Your responsibility is not to stand along side of it. But, suppose you go over and stand along side of God. 2 Tim. 2:15 is standing along side of the Word is the same thing. Your standing there along side of the Word. What is going to happen? You will continually obey the Word. *Result! Victory. Happens -*

Now, where does the responsibility lie?...Right here as you stand between the two. "To whom ever you present yourself, you are slaves of the one whom you obey....."

You see, we have for to long mis-interpreted the word ~~yield~~ ^{present}". If you stand along side of sin, you are going to obey it. But if you stand along side of God and His word, the result will be obedience to God. That is a wonderful, wonderful principle. *I John 1:9*

3E ^{Third} In Vs 17 and 18, he reminds us of the tremendous position ~~that~~ ^{that} we have in the Lord. A wonderful position we have in Christ. And that is what I like about Paul as he moves through this chapter. He keeps reminding us what is true about us in the Lord. But he is trying to get us to apply it.

Vs 17 says...(Read Vs 17-18)

He is reminding ~~you~~ ^{us} that when ~~you~~ ^{we} accepted Christ ~~you~~ ^{we} had to obey the teaching of the Word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Now, when ~~you~~ ^{we} ~~accept~~ ^{accepted} Christ ~~you~~ ^{we} ~~must~~ ^{must} believe the facts of the Bible. Faith saved ~~you~~ ^{us}, not ~~your~~ ^{our} works. And He is reminding ~~them~~ ^{us} that ~~they~~ ^{we} obeyed, past tense, the form of teaching that was given to ~~them~~ ^{us}.

The point is, why not keep obeying the form of teaching?...Why not present yourself along side of the Word and say, "This is the truth"...

Why not recognize that the Bible is the cleansing agent. That you are clean through ~~the~~ Word which I have spoken unto you, says Jesus. Why not continually present yourself, standing along side of the ^Word, being diligent as a workman in it, and saying, "Lord, this is the key ^{TO} of victory in my life." And God promises you that obedience will follow.... Present yourself, ~~and~~, along side of God and His Word *and Victory and happiness will follow.*

4B) Then in Vs 19 he tells us of the practice that we should cultivate in our life. The practice that we should cultivate. Vs 19 says...(Read Vs 19)

Do you understand? If you stand along side of righteousness the result in your life will be sanctification or holiness. In other words, a pure life.

A person can't even be smart unless he is pure. Do you know that?

out James 3 says that the wisdom of God is first pure. Then it is manifested in many, many tracts. But it is first pure.

3D) Then, finally, I would like you to notice ^{*your third responsibility*} in Verse 20-23, ~~that our~~ ^{*we have*} a responsibility as believers ~~to~~ ^{*is*} realizing the consequences of sin. We ought to

be smart enough as believers to recognize that if we continue to stand along side of sin we are ^{*presenting ourselves*} yielding to something that we don't even have a part with. That it has no effectiveness, no fruit, and will do nothing for us. Because as we have learned, as believers, those who continue in sin are heading for' death. Vs 23 "for the wages of sin is death."

Vs 21 says "what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death?"

That is the way people ^{*without Christ*} are going. Those folks who have not turned to Christ. Why do we as believers want to have anything to do with it?

Vs 22.."But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life"

Now, the question is: What ~~does~~ make us go over to the side of sin? When we know that the result of sin is death. And we have been sanctified to eternal life. ~~We are going to the Lord one day.~~ So, why do we go over to the side of sin?

Because of a simple fact about human nature. We would rather have the pleasure of sin for a moment, then the effectiveness of a life time.

You know, over in the book of Hebrews chapter 11 where it is giving us a list of all the great saints, it mentions Moses and it says that He choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, then to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. WHAT A COMMITMENT THAT WAS!

We ought to have brains, in other words, says Paul, that these things of the world are not a part of our heritage as a believers. Why then do we go over there? Why do we stand along side of sin?

Because we want satisfaction and pleasure for a moment instead of the effectiveness of a life time...

God is talking about your effectiveness, your productivity, your ~~fruit~~ ^{happiness}. You can live victoriously, if you will first of all say to God, "I am yours to use in whatever ~~way~~ way you see fit."

Untill you {make that first presentation of Vs 13, you will never experience the ~~fruit~~/practical concepts of Vs 16 and 19.

So, there are ^{two} applications this morning to the believer.

- (1) - ^{Receive Christ as Saviour} ~~Receive Christ as Saviour~~
- (2) ^{True} if you are a believer hearing this message, I ask you, have you really ever in your life said ~~to~~ to Jesus: "I am yours to use in what ever way you see fit." Nothing left out. My total life presented to you to use. That is where you must begin, ^{if you are to have vict}
- (3) And the ^{third} ~~second~~ application, if you have made ^{Those first two} ~~that first~~ decisions, then recognize that you must continue, day after day, present yourself along side of the Lord and his Word as the only cleansing agent that God has. And the result will be obedience to God. And remember this week, because you will be tested this week, as soon as you see that sin and you stand along side of it, you are asking for the control of that sin in your life.

So, here you are faced with it, ^{Present} ~~yield~~ yourself to God and his word. Present yourself along side of the Word. And stay away from presenting ~~yourself~~ yourself along ~~side~~ side of that sin.

And there is where the christian finds continue victory.....

LET US CLOSE WITH A WORD OF PRAYER