

TITLE AND NUMBER: 139. Freedom from sin but not freedom to sin



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Romans 6:15-18

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace?

By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 5:15-17; Matthew 15:18-20

What does this Bible passage tell us?

In this passage, the writer, Paul, explains the word 'grace' in practice. He encourages every follower of Jesus Christ to continue living in obedience to God and to resist the temptation to sin.

In almost all of human society, there are laws and rules to regulate the conduct of its members. Unfortunately, the natural human response is to test the limits of such rules and laws which in turn will attract more laws thereby creating a huge and often unbearable legal system that requires a specialist to navigate. The Bible shows how this happened to people in the Old Testament.

This is the reason that God's grace, through Jesus Christ, is so important to us all. The purpose of grace is to free believers from the burden of laws. Sadly, some people were misusing this freedom as an excuse to disobey God and engage in sin.

As followers of Christ, we should not go through life asking how many wrongdoings we can get away with. Rather we should ask, 'how can we do right by those around us – neighbours, friends, and family?' With such an attitude, not only will everyone be better off, but we will also stand out from the crowd.

Jesus explained it this way: 'Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5:16 NLT)

Reflections:

- Read Matthew 15:18-20. Everything you do begins from the heart. Take time to reflect on what is in your heart today.
- What you listen to, read or watch will affect the way you think and act. What might you listen to, read or watch that will help you stay close to God?
- Look for an opportunity to do something right by someone this week and make a note of it on this sheet.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.

FREEDOM



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

