



Romans 1-8

Positional Sanctification

ROMANS

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE	THE THREE TYPES OF SINNERS	THE THREE TENSES OF SALVATION	
		JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
1:1-17	1:18-3:20	3:21-5:21	6-8
Accountable for the Gospel 1:1-5	The Immoral Sinner 1:18-32	Justification Explained 3:21-31	Sanctification Positional 6:1-10
Addressees The Romans 1:6-7	The Moral Sinner 2:1-16	Justification Exemplified 4:1-25	Sanctification Practical 6:11-8:17
Aspirations in the Gospel 1:8-15	The Religious Sinner 2:17-3:8	Justification's End Results 5:1-11	
Acclamation of the Gospel: <i>Salvation to all who believe</i> 1:16-17	Conclusion: <i>All Are Sinners</i> 3:9-20	Identification: <i>In Adam All Die</i> <i>In Christ All Live</i> 5:11-21	

The Justice of God Revealed

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F. Romans 6:15-23 – Practical ramifications of positional sanctification: What does freedom mean? *Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?*

1. Romans 6:15 – **Sin's inescapable payout:** Since we are not under the Law but under grace, why not keep on sinning? Why not be licentious or lawless?

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- a) Should we give ourselves to sin since we are no longer under law? No, *May it never be*. Even if God never punished sin, sin kills.
- b) Every Christian should understand that sin enslaves, and eventually destroys, everyone who offers himself to it!

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2. Romans 6:16 – **Sin's unavoidable slavery:**
 - a) Romans 6:16a – The reason we should not sin is a practical one: *You are slaves of the one whom you obey.*

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- 1) You become a slave of the one to whom you present yourself. At any given moment, you are either a slave to God, resulting in righteousness, or a slave to the sin nature, resulting in death.
- 2) You cannot play with sin (walk according to the sin nature) and escape getting entrapped (James 1:14-15, 2 Peter 2:19), enslaved (Matthew 6:24, John 8:34), and ultimately destroyed. Romans 6:23; Galatians 6:7; James 1:15

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- b) Romans 6:16b – The Law does not keep us from sinning. Rather, our motivation for not sinning is that we know the facts about the sin nature and its ability to enslave us if we walk according to it.
- c) Romans 6:16c – **Facts about slavery: All** people on earth, both believers and unbelievers, are slaves to something.

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- 1) Unsaved people are slaves to sin (their sin nature) and thus locked in the death-vice of sins. Ephesians 2:1-3
- 2) Romans 6:16d – On the other hand, because a believer is positionally dead to sin's authority, he becomes a slave only to the one to whom he presents his body.

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- a. Believers are *either* slaves of obedience to God, resulting in a harvest of righteousness - Romans 8:13b, John 6:63, Galatians 6:7-8

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- b. Or* believers are slaves of obedience to sin (singular: indwelling sin), resulting in a harvest of death (dysfunctional homes, ruined lives, shattered dreams, broken hearts, wrecked relationships, hopelessness, etc.).
Romans 8:12-13a; 1 Tim. 5:6

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- d) You need to be aware that *all believers* are slaves.
- e) However, as a believer, you get to choose your master. You can choose the one to whom you present yourself.
- f) The ongoing success or failure of your Christian life reflects whether or not you reckon on your position in Christ (dead to sin and alive unto God) and subsequently present your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

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g) Facts about lordship: The two masters presented here parallel Galatians 5:16-25 in which the sin nature and the Holy Spirit war for control over you. Matt 6:24

1) Romans 6:19 – Obedience to indwelling sin (impurity, lawlessness) always results in a harvest of death.
Romans 6:21

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- 2) Romans 6:16 – Obedience to God's indwelling Spirit always results in righteousness or practical sanctification. Romans 6:22

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3. Romans 6:17-18 – **Sin was defeated:** We stop sinning because we understand our liberation from the sin nature. *But thanks be to God.*

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- a) Romans 6:17-18a – When you became *obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed*, absolute slavery to sin ceased. You were freed from the sin nature's tyranny by understanding and counting on your death with Christ to sin.

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b) Romans 6:18b – On the day of your salvation, when you were freed from the sin nature's exclusive right to rule over you, you rightfully became a slave of righteousness and came under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Romans 6:22

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4. Romans 6:19-21 – **God's solution: We stop** sinning by presenting our members (bodies) to God just as we formerly presented them to the sin nature.
 - a) Romans 6:19 – **Remember your old eagerness:** Remember how eagerly you used to present your members to the sin nature? Now, do what you did then, only do it in reverse and you will reap sanctification, or holy living.

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- 1) Before, you presented your body parts (hands, eyes, feet, mind, etc.) to the sin nature to commit sins, resulting in lawlessness in your life.
- 2) Now, in a similar manner, by faith, present your body (hands, eyes, feet, mind, etc.) to righteousness (to Christ), and you will reap sanctification.

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- b) Romans 6:20 – **Remember your old exemption:** Remember how you used to be exempt from doing right? When you were slaves to the sin nature, you were totally free from righteousness!
- 1) Now the same thing is true, but in reverse!
 - 2) Now you can live free from unrighteousness through your new position in Christ in this new divine order that God established.

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- c) Romans 6:21 – **Remember your old earnings:** Remember how your old slavery earned you nothing but shame and death?
 - 1) You gained no benefits!
 - 2) You only reaped death!

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G. Romans 6:22-23 – Conclusion: *Shall we sin because we are not under the Law?* No, because

1. Romans 6:22a – ...*having been freed...* You are free from the old evil master, the sin nature. Galatians 5:1

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2. Romans 6:22b – *...and enslaved to God...You are under a new Master, God, and under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*
3. Romans 6:22c – *...you derive your benefit... You now receive benefits and have quite a benefit package!*

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- a) Romans 6:22d – You start experiencing sanctification. That holy life you've always wanted becomes yours.
- b) Romans 6:22b-23 – You start living the eternal life. You finally start really living. Eternal life is not just unending life but also the abundant life Christ promised. John 17:3, Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:3-4, 2 Timothy 1:10

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4. Christian, what will it be? Life or death? We often use this verse in evangelism, but its real context is what will you harvest from the bosses you present yourself to as a believer? Romans 6:23
 - a) In the Christian life, presenting yourself in slavery to the sin nature pays you a harvest of death.

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- b) Or, in the Christian life, presenting yourself in slavery to God allows you to enjoy and receive the benefit of God's free gift of eternal life in (not from) none other than Jesus Christ our Lord.