

Resources for engaging further

- View the Sunday message online at vcclive.org
- For further reflection

In his book *The Epistle to the Romans*, Douglas Moo writes:

"The new status enjoyed by the believer (justification) brings with it a new influence and power that both has led and must lead to a new way of life. This 'must' is very important...while belonging to a new realm, the believer brings with him into it many of the impulses, habits, and tendencies of the old life, a constant threat to putting into actual practice the realities of our new realm status..."

What are some of the impulses, habits, and tendencies of your old life?

- For further reading

The Good and Beautiful God, by James Bryan Smith, chapter eight

- Prayer support

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



Freedom from Bondage to Sin

Romans 6:1-23

Sid Niemeyer • February 17, 2013

The context of two realms (Romans 5:20-21)

Dead to the power of sin (Romans 6:1-14)

Freedom to be slaves of God (Romans 6:15-23)

Live out of your new identity "in Christ"



Freedom from Bondage to Sin

Romans 6:1-23

Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

In last week's message we learned about the seriousness of sin and how we lost the glory that God had originally given humanity. This week we explore freedom from the bondage to sin as the outcome of our transfer from the realm of sin to the realm of righteousness—to our new identity in Christ! But like a child being adopted into a new family, we bring with us the baggage from the old realm making it a struggle to live fully restored lives. Nonetheless, our standing in the new realm is an accomplished fact. We are no longer slaves to sin, and we are "alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Engaging with each other

1. Share about a time when you dressed up as someone else for fun.
2. Has there been a time when you wished you could be someone else? In what ways do you wish you were different?

Engaging with the Bible

1. In Romans 5:20-21, Paul talks about two realms: the old realm where sin, law and death reign and the new realm where grace, righteousness, and life reign. What other terms could you use to define these two realms?
2. Read Romans 6:1-10. Does Paul see it as possible for a person to simultaneously live in both of these realms? Why or why not?
3. Read Romans 6:11-14. In verse 11, the NLT uses the phrase "Consider yourselves," while the NIV says "Count yourselves." This is a command. What is involved in following this command?

4. Describe what it means to be "alive to God" and "dead to sin."
5. Read Romans 6:15-19. When is "slavery" actually true freedom? Contrast this with our cultural view of freedom.
6. Read Romans 6:20-23. As you look back on your life, can you identify instances when you thought you were acting in freedom, though it was actually slavery to sin?

Engaging with our lives

1. How have you experienced freedom in your life due to Christ's death, not only freeing us from the penalty of sin, but also subduing the power of sin?
2. Why is it important to have a correct understanding of our identity in Christ and His power in our lives prior to pursuing the behaviors and characteristics of holiness (v. 22)?
3. Author James Brian Smith writes that we are free to make choices about what we do and do not do, but that, "Those choices should be made in light of who I am, not to determine who I am." How would you apply this to your life?