



OBJECTIONS TO JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH: CAN I NOW LIVE HOWEVER I WANT (PT 2)?

Romans 6:15-23

Introduction: The Proper Role of Works in the Christian Life

I. The Objection (v.15)

- A. Some Were Using Paul's Gospel as an Excuse to Sin
 - o Paul affirms we "are not under law but under grace" (v.15) but some misunderstood this to mean we could live however we want.
- B. Paul is Focusing on the Sin of "Antinomianism"
 - o Principled Antinomianism: Someone who says good works are irrelevant for a Christian.
 - o Practical Antinomianism: Someone who believes good works are part of the Christian life, but never talks about their importance and never encourages people to do them.
 - o Personal Antinomianism: Someone who personally has no good works in their life.

II. Response #1: Understand Your Life Before Christ

- A. Your Master: You Were "Slaves of Sin" (v.17, 20)
 - o Paul also describes us as "slaves to impurity and to lawlessness" (v.19)
- B. Your Actions: As Slaves, You Were "Obedient" to Sin (v.16)
 - o Slaves had no power do what *they* want; they do what their master wants
- C. Your Pattern: Obedience to Sin leads to More Sin
 - o "lawlessness leading to more lawlessness" (v.19)
 - o Sin is a trap; it draws you in deeper and deeper. It becomes who you are.
- D. Your Fruit: the Fruit of Sin is Death
 - o "But what fruit were you getting at that time from the thing of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is *death*" (v.21)
 - o How does disobedience lead to death?



III. Response #2: Understand Your Life After Christ

- A. Your Master: You are Slaves of Righteousness
 - o "Having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness" (v.18); also "slaves of God" (v.22)
 - o Notice you are still a slave. Everyone has a master. No one is their own master. Either you serve sin or you serve God! And you cannot serve both.
- B. Your Actions: As Slaves, You Are Obedient to Righteousness
 - o You "have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed" (v.17)
 - o What is noteworthy about the phrase "from the heart"?
- C. Your Pattern: Obedience to Righteousness leads to more Righteousness
 - o "present yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification" (v.19)
 - o *Sanctification*: an act of God's grace by which we are made into the image of Christ and enabled to become more and more holy.
 - o Just like sin is a cycle or a pattern that is hard to break; so is righteousness. It can be a habit!
- D. Your Fruit: Fruit of Righteousness is Life
 - o "The fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life" (v.22). How does obedience lead to blessing?
 - o Does this mean you are saved by sanctification? No, but it is a necessary consequence of salvation, and therefore leads to eternal life.



Discussion Groups

1. Do you find yourself struggling with some form of antinomianism? Which kind (of the three listed)?

2. In what ways in your life have you seen sin become a trap that leads to even more sin?

3. In what ways in your life have you seen righteousness lead to even more righteousness?

4. Give some examples of how obedience has led to real "fruit" and blessing in your life.

