

DO AND DO NOT

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Romans 6:12-23

1. To a large degree our lives are what they are based on choices we have made.
2. Life involves a series of choices to do and not to do certain things.
3. There should be a distinct difference between how and why non-Christians make choices and how and why Christians make choices.
4. As followers of Jesus Christ we have received an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness so that we can reign as kings in life through Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17
5. Also we know that our old self was crucified with Christ in order that our body of sin might be done away with so that we would no longer be slaves to sin. Romans 6:6
6. Additionally if we have died with Christ we believe that we shall also live with (in) Him. Romans 6:8
7. Based on what the Bible declares to be completed actions by God on our behalf we are to consider ourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:11
8. One of the problems we face is our tendency to interpret the Bible based on our experience rather than evaluating our experience based on what the Bible clearly states to be true.
9. The vast majority of professing Christians are trying to be what they believe God wants them to be instead of trusting God to enable them to be what He wants them to be.
10. The Law says, "Obey and be blessed," while grace says, "Be blessed and obey."
11. Note the clear statement in verse 14, "For sin shall not be master over you, **for you are not under law but under grace.**"
12. Those who put themselves under the law are doomed to fail, while those who appropriate by faith the abundance of grace that is available to every true child of God are destined to make progress in every area of the Christian life.
13. With these thoughts in mind let's believe that what Paul teaches here can become a reality in our lives.

I. Do not let sin be your master any more. 12-14

- A. Paul began this section of his letter with the word "therefore."
- B. Based on the fact that you have received the gift of righteousness, died to sin, been born again, are now in Christ and no longer in Adam, and Christ is now in you, in the person of the Holy Spirit, do not let sin reign-as-king in your mortal body any longer so that you obey your body's lusts.
- C. Since you are no longer slaves of sin stop presenting the members and faculties associated with your body to sin as instruments, or weapons, of unrighteousness.
- D. But do present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- E. In Christ, and with Christ in us, we can say no to sin and yes to God.

II. Do be obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you have been committed (handed over to, placed under).

A. There are two approaches to preaching and teaching the Bible.

1. Textual: Using various verses and portions of Scripture to teach biblical truth.
2. Expository: Focusing on a particular passage of Scripture and exposing what it teaches.

NOTE: To be accurate both methods require that the preacher or teacher be knowledgeable related to the message of the entire Bible, and possess an understanding of the entire book from which he is quoting texts or expounding a passage lest he misapply or misinterpret Scripture.

EXAMPLE:

a. Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it." (This describes the heart of a person who is still lost.)

b. Jeremiah 31:33-34

"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (When a person is born again he has a new heart. See Ezekiel 36:26-27)

B. A genuinely converted person will not adopt the attitude Paul refers to in 6:1 and 6:15.

C. Our faith increases as our knowledge and understanding of the Bible increases.

D. A properly instructed follower of Jesus Christ knows that he or she is no longer a slave of sin and can now live as a slave of righteousness.

III. Do not trust in your ability, but do have total confidence in God's ability. 19-23

A. As long as we see ourselves as slaves to sin there can be no real progress in the area of righteousness.

B. Also, as long as we trust in our own ability to live a life that pleases God we are destined to live a life of failure and frustration. (Chapter 7)

C. The Law exposes man's inability, but grace demonstrates God's ability.

D. When it came to spiritual progress in the lives of the Philippian believers Paul trusted God's ability and not their ability. Phil 1:6

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

E. We must embrace this truth personally, and cooperate with God related to the process of sanctification. Phil 2:12-13

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

APPLICATION

1. Next week we are going to focus on Romans 7, where Paul deals with our tendency to try and live the Christian life the same way the Old Testament Jews tried to keep the Law.

2. Many well-intentioned preachers and teachers wed law and grace, and in the process create an impossible situation for those who look to them for instruction and guidance.

3. We must die to the Law so that we can be married to grace. Rom 7:4-6

Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.** 5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. 6 **But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.**

4. We are no longer legally bound to the Law, but we are indwelt by the Law-Giver, who is living His life in us, and motivating and empowering us to live a life that glorifies God and benefits others.