**Lesson 14: You Have a New Master (Part 2)**

Text: Romans 6:7-14

**Introduction**

Imagine you worked for O’Reilly Automotive. You would learn their ways of doing business to the point that it became like second nature to you. Let’s say that you changed jobs and began working for AutoZone. This would mean that you no longer worked for O’Reilly. The management of O’Reilly could call you to come in to work and you still remember how to work there. You could easily pick it back up. The truth, however, is that you no are longer employed by O’Reilly Automotive. You have a new employer! We could say it this way, “You have a new master.” The same is true in our spiritual lives. You remember what it was like to live under the management of sin. You recall all too well how to obey the lusts of the flesh. The truth, however, is that you have a new Master. As a believer, the power of sin has been broken and you are free to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. When your flesh calls you to “clock in,” remember that you no longer have to obey. You have a new Master!

1. **A believer is free from the ruling power of sin because of his or her union with Christ.** 
   1. Sin is a cruel taskmaster. This is evident in Paul’s description of sin and its effects. (Romans 1:18-3:20)
   2. The only way a person could be free from the penalty of sin is by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:21-4:25)
   3. Justification by faith produces peace and spiritual growth in the life of the believer. (Romans 5:1-11)
   4. The believer has been transferred from the realm of sin to the realm of grace. This was Paul’s emphasis in the latter part of chapter 5.
   5. Grace does not grant the liberty to sin, but rather the power to resist sin! (6:1-2)
   6. The believer’s union with Christ breaks the power of sin’s rule. (Romans 6:3-5)
      1. When a person trusts Christ and His finished work for their salvation, he is placed in Christ.
      2. This union is pictured in baptism. Water baptism is a visible expression of a believer’s union with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.
      3. The believer has died to sin and has new life through Jesus Christ.
      4. Although we have been transferred into this new relationship, we are not free from the influences of the old realm. Sin remains an ever-present threat to the believer.
      5. Your union with Christ means that you can live under His gracious rule rather than the tyranny of sin.
   7. How do you make Christ’s rule a reality in your daily struggle against sin’s domination?
   8. Transition: There are three basic steps to submit to the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **First, you must *know* that you have a new Master. (v. 6-10)**
   1. You must know that you have been saved (born again).
   2. The believer’s death to sin brings new life. (v. 7)
   3. Our death with Christ also indicates that we will live with Him. (v. 8) Since He rose again and ascended back to Heaven, we have confidence that He is alive and we will live in His presence.
   4. His victory over death is our victory over death. (v. 9)
   5. He died for our sins once for all and now He lives for the glory of the Father. (v. 10)
      1. He always lived “unto God.” He consistently obeyed His Fathers commandments. He continues to live “unto God.”
      2. This is how we are to live. A believer should not live his life for himself in sinful indulgence! He ought to live for the glory of the One who saved him. He ought to live “unto God.”
3. **Second, you must *reckon* Christ to be your new Master.** 
   1. We are to reckon ourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God. (v. 11)
      1. Paul drew a comparison with the believer. “Likewise” means that we are to follow the example of Christ.
      2. The word *reckon* is an accounting term. It means to “calculate, count, consider.” The believer is instructed to take what he knows to be the truth regarding his union with Christ and to apply it to his life. We are to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God. Reckon it to be so!
      3. It is not enough to know it, you must consider it to be true in your life!
   2. We should not allow sin to reign in our lives since we are in Christ. (v. 12)
      1. We no longer have to obey the “lusts” that once dominated our lives.
      2. “Lusts” refer to the “desires that are in conflict with the will of God.” (Douglas Moo)
4. **Third, you must *yield* to Christ as your new Master. (v. 13-14)** 
   1. Instead of yielding to sin, we are now free to yield to God. (v. 13)
      1. The word *yield* means to “place someone or something at someone's disposal.” (Friberg) We should not place our lives at the disposal of wrongdoing. We should present ourselves to God.
      2. *Instrument* can refer to either a tool or a weapon. As a believer, your life can either be used as a tool of righteousness or unrighteousness. You are either a weapon the enemy can use or you are a weapon in God’s hand.
      3. There is no neutral ground! You are either actively serving God or you are serving your sinful desires.
   2. The reason you ought to be a tool that God can use is that you are no longer under the dominion (mastery) of sin and the law (v. 14). You are under grace!
5. **Application: Is Jesus Christ the Master of your life?** 
   1. It is possible for a believer to be dominated by sin. Many are dominated by lust, anger, pride, doubt, fear, worry, and a host of other sins. This should not be! It doesn’t have to be this way!
   2. Sin’s power is broken through Christ. You no longer have to obey the lusts of the flesh. You can go free in the power of grace.
   3. You must know that He is your Master. You must reckon (consider) Him to be your Master. Only then can you yield to Him as your Master. Apply these steps to whatever area of life that is under sin’s dominion. “I *have* died to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I *count* myself as dead to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Instead, I *yield* my life for God’s use in the area of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

**Conclusion**

In his book, Changed Into His Image, Jim Berg illustrates and applies this truth using a landlord and a tenant. Imagine you have been paying rent to Mr. Brown who comes to collect rent on the first of every month. On a particular month, he sold the property to Mr. White. Nonetheless, Mr. Brown shows up at your door to collect that month’s rent! Are you obligated to pay him? Previously, you were required to pay. You were under his power. However, once the house changed possession, you no longer have to pay him! He will take your money, but you are no longer obligated. You have a new landlord. Stop paying your old landlord! You are bought with a price. You have a new Master!