

Romans 6:1-23  
“Learning My Position”

~ INTRO ~

IN 1994... I WAS 23-YRS OLD...

- When I began working for California Dept. of Corrections...
  - In a maximum-security prison.

MY INITIAL EXPOSURE WAS FRIGHTENING!

- Until I learned my position and recognized the power & control...
  - I had over the inmates.

BUT IT TOOK SOME TIME...

- For me to learn the practical side of how my position operated.

SO TOO...

- In (Rom 6) Paul teaches the church about *sanctification*.
  - That we might understand the practical impact...
    - Of our position in Christ.

*Sanctification* = holiness or separation.

**Three Phases of Holiness:**<sup>1</sup>

- 1) God **has** separated the believer from the **penalty of sin**.
- 2) God **is** separating the believer from the **power of sin**.
- 3) God **will** separate believers from the **presence of sin**.

(1 Cor. 1:30-b) NLT...

*“... Christ has made us right with God;  
He made us pure and holy, and He freed us from sin.”*

**IDEA #1 – FREEDOM MADE REAL**

LET’S CONTRAST...

- *Justification* against *Sanctification*:

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<sup>1</sup> Summary Definition of *sanctification* sourced from Got Questions Ministries on 05/16/25 from <https://www.gotquestions.org/sanctification.html>

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- *Justification* is an immediate ACT of God on our behalf.
- *Sanctification* is a life-long process of God working in us.
  
- *Justification* removes the guilt & penalty of sin instantly.
- *Sanctification* removes the growth & power of sin.
  - My habits & practices are changed as I learn God’s word.
    - This is how I grow in maturity.

PEOPLE GET STUCK IN SIN...

- Because they never learn what God has provided.

(Titus 2:11-12)...

*“For the Grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...”*

This DOES NOT mean we don’t struggle against sin.

- It means... that Jesus put sin out of business (v.6).
  - He rendered it inoperative / paralyzed it.

(v.7) The idea is we’ve been “*Acquitted.*”

- Legally innocent.

HOWEVER...

- Our enemy wants to keep us ignorant of the impact of grace...
  - And living in fear... so he can control us.

THIS IS WHY PAUL...

- Teaches the church about *Positional Sanctification...*
  - Which means we’re: *Dead to sin & alive to God.*

AND HE CLOSES THIS SECTION...

- By using the word: *Reckon* (v.11).

THIS IS A STRONG WORD...

- Meaning to count up the facts... compute what’s been said...
  - AND arrive at an irrefutable conclusion!
    - *You’re dead to sin & alive to God.*

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**IDEA #2 – GROWTH THRU OBEDIENCE**

THE TAKE AWAY...

- From all that's been said is in (vv.12-14) NLT

FLIP TO (Rom 12:1-2) “*present*”

- Understand the facts of who you are in Christ...
  - And then live accordingly.

(Gal. 5:16) NLT

- Dominance over sin is determined by where we walk.
  - God wants us to know Him and obey Him.

(John 14:15) NLT

*“If you love Me, obey My commandments.”*

POINT BEING...

- To live a life of FAITH ...
  - We're to act upon the facts.
- Sometimes we don't feel dead to sin...
  - BUT we are!!!
    - And therefore (v.14)

**IDEA #3 – WHO'S YOUR DADDY**

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN...

- A child of God & a child of the devil...
  - Is that a child of the devil loves doing what the devil wants done.

BUT... TO THE CHILD OF GOD...

- It's heart breaking to intentionally live apart from God.
  - To continue in things that put Jesus on the cross.

(v.22) Why do we obey God?

- **Because** He set us free from sin.
  - We've seen this (6x) in this chapter:
    - (v.2) (v.6) (v.7) (v.14) (v.18) & (v.22).

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~ IN CLOSING ~

DO YOU HAVE A HABIT...

- That’s hindering your obedience to God?
  - The **Holy Spirit** wants to free you of it.