

Romans Part 15 (6:12 – 6:23)

--INTRO:

--last week in Romans 6:1-11 we explored the concept of the supernatural transformation that occurs in us the moment we place our faith in Christ and are reconciled to God through His death on the cross...

--the void of spiritual death is replaced by the life of the Holy Spirit

--the reign of sin is replaced by the reign of Christ through the Holy Spirit

--Romans 6:12-23 builds on the concept of this inner transformation by explaining that it sets in motion a life-long process of transforming our lives, from the inside out... learning how to align our thinking with the new reality in us and live it out in our day-to-day lives.

--in the words of Colossians 2:6-7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord [*thus resulting in the supernatural change in you*], **so walk in Him** [*live it out in our day-to-day lives*], rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

--THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH...

--when we are saved sin is dethroned and Christ is enthroned in our spirit, but sin is still present in our flesh and relentlessly tries to exert it's will...

--Romans 7:21-23: "**evil is present with me**, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see **another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind.**"

--even though Christ is enthroned in our spirit, we are still in control of our lives and have to make conscious decisions to follow His rule and deny sin...

--Romans 6:12: "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts."

--our mind is the battleground in the war between our spirit and our sin-plagued flesh

--2 Corinthians 10:5: "...bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"

--1 Corinthians 9:27: "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection..."

--Romans 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

--Mark 14:38: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

--"SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"...

--in Romans 6:16-19 Paul adds the concept of being "slaves of righteousness" to the concept of being set free from being a slave of sin.

--Romans 6:18-19: "And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh [*that is, in using the phrase "slave of righteousness" he is breaking down sublime concepts into simple terminology that is easily understood*]. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness."

--in using the phrase "slaves of righteousness" Paul is highlighting the important principle that saying no to sin is not always a pleasant experience! The desires of our flesh can be overwhelming at times, and denying those desires can sometimes be agonizing and make us feel like a slave that is being confined to a prison cell.

--it's important to have the mindset that following Christ requires sacrifices that are sometimes difficult... **but when we focus on Christ and realize the agony He endured to pay for our sins it becomes easier to endure the agony of forsaking our sins!**

--just like the hands and feet of Jesus Christ were nailed to the cross, so we must nail to the cross the hands and feet of our sinful desires so they no longer reign in our lives...

--Galatians 5:24: "And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

--when we crucify our flesh as "slaves of righteousness" we may feel like we are losing our life, but the truth of the matter is that when we lose our life for Christ we find it!

--Matthew 16:24-25: Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

--when we crucify the life of the flesh God replaces it with new life...

--Romans 6:3-5: "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection..."

--death and resurrection go hand in hand!

--SEEING SIN FOR WHAT IT REALLY IS...

--not only is it easier to crucify our sinful desires when we focus on Christ and Him being crucified to make payment for our sins... but it also helps to see those sinful desires for what they really are!

--see the end result of sin...

--Romans 6:16-23: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ... 21... **For the end of those things is death.** 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

--Colossians 3:5-6: "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 **Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience...**"

--see what sin wants to cheat us out of in this life...

--when we crucify our sinful desires – just as Jesus Christ was crucified – we become the hands and feet and voice of Jesus to others...

--our lives are transformed from being "instruments of unrighteousness" to being "instruments of righteousness" (Romans 6:13)

--we become "vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." (2 Timothy 2:21)

--Romans 13:12-14: "The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

--when we give into sin and "present our members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin" we oppress our new nature...

--1 Corinthians 6:15-20: "**Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?** Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! ... 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 **Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?** 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

--Galatians 5:24-26: "And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**"

--James 4:5: "**The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously.**"

--Ephesians 4:29-32: "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.** 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

--temptations are never what they first appear to be because Satan, the mastermind behind temptations, is the "father of lies" (John 8:44)

--the way Satan approached Adam and Eve is a great example of his deceptive tactics:

--Genesis 3:1-10: "And he [Satan] said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?' [**first Satan questioned God's Word**] And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [**then Satan outright denied God's Word and lured Eve with a total lie**] 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [*the exact opposite would happen!*] 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree **desirable** to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked ... 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." [**the knowledge they gained wasn't what Satan promised... rather than liberate them it made them fearful and ultimately plunged the entire human race into the fall...**]

--the voice of the world echoes that of Satan... 2 Peter 2:18-19: "For when **they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh**, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 **While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption**; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage."

--BE ON GUARD...

--remember that Satan strategizes to make us stumble in our weak areas...

--1 Peter 5:8-10: "**Be sober, be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

--Hebrews 12:12-13: "Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and **make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.**"

--steer clear of things that make you stumble... don't get as close as you can but rather **FLEE...**

--1 Timothy 6:11-12: "But you, O man of God, **flee these things** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith..."

--2 Timothy 2:22: "**Flee also youthful lusts**; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart..."

--1 Corinthians 6:18: "**Flee sexual immorality...**"

--1 Corinthians 10:12-14: "Therefore **let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall**. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. 14 Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry...**"

--Mark 14:38: "**Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

--the "Temptation Triangle" analogy... analogous to the Bermuda Triangle!

--NEVER LOSE HOPE...

--Philippians 3:12: "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on..."

--Galatians 5:5: "For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for **the hope of righteousness** by faith."