

How to Stay Holy in an Unholy World Bible Talk Series

Romans 6:19-22

Ice Breaker:

Which of the three options would you choose:

1. Be a slave to an absolutely bad slave master
2. Be a slave to a absolutely good slave master
3. Be a slave to no one but yourself

What influenced the choice you made? Most pick the third choice... why? What's the downside to being a slave to self? Could there be benefits to having an absolutely good slave master who only wants to benefit you?

Read Romans 6:19-22

Textual Questions:

v. 19 What are the two forms of slavery that Paul contrasts in this verse? Let's look more closely at that contrast (use the following flowchart to continue asking questions from the text - notice how the two paths have contrasting parallels):

"Offer the parts of your body in slavery to..."

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graph TD; A["Offer the parts of your body in slavery to..."] --> B["Impurity (v. 19)"]; A --> C["Righteousness (v. 19)"]; B --> D["Increased Wickedness (v. 19)"]; D --> E["Free From Righteousness' Control (v. 20)"]; E --> F["What Benefit? (v.21)"]; F --> G["Death (v. 21)"]; C --> H["HOLINESS! (v. 19)"]; H --> I["Set Free From Sin (v. 22)"]; I --> J["The Benefit You Reap Leads to HOLINESS (v.22)"]; J --> K["Eternal Life (v. 21)"];
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Impurity (v. 19)

(How can you offer your eyes, ears, mouth, hands, even genitals in slavery to impurity?)

Increased Wickedness (v. 19)

(What does impurity lead to? Have you ever "tried" something impure only to go back to repeatedly? Tell me about that.)

Free From Righteousness' Control (v. 20)

(Tell me about a time that you rebelled against something that you knew was good for you. e.g. homework, practice, lessons, or vegetables. What's the long term consequence of that rebellion?)

What Benefit? (v.21)

(What is the perceived benefit of being free from the constraints of real righteousness? What are actual benefits of being free of its control? Have you felt shame for the actions that spring from impurity? Tell me about that.)

Death (v. 21)

(What is the end result of being free from the control righteousness and being a slave to self and sin? What does Paul mean by death? Do

Righteousness (v. 19)

(How can you offer your eyes, ears, mouth, hands, even genitals in slavery to righteousness?)

HOLINESS! (v. 19)

(What does righteousness lead to? How can we pursue holiness according to this passage?)

Set Free From Sin (v. 22)

(Why is better to be a slave to God rather than to sin? What is one sin that you most want to be set free from? How can becoming a slave to God help?)

The Benefit You Reap Leads to HOLINESS (v.22)

(What's the first benefit -that Paul mentions- of being a slave to God? What's so great about Holiness?)

Eternal Life (v. 21)

(What's the second benefit of being a slave to God? Does eternal life really matter to you - that is, do you think much about it? Tell me why it's important to you. According to this passage, what's the path to eternal life? And what's the path to death and damnation?)

Closing Charge: Which path will you take?

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2nd Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Ice Breaker:

- Let's imagine that you have to be handcuffed to someone for 24 hours. With whom would you least like to be handcuffed and why?
- OR Bring zip ties and use them to actually handcuff people together at the bible talk. After attaching them, give them some physical task or challenge to complete. Talk about how being unequally matched makes it all the more difficult.

Read 2nd Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Textual Questions:

v. 14-15

- What is a yoke used for? What would be an example from farming of an "unequal yoke"? What's the problem with an unequal yoke?
- How would you define a believer?
- How would you define an unbeliever?
- In these two verses, believers are equated with righteousness, light, and Christ. How does that compare to your definition of a believer? What does it mean to be righteous? What does it mean to be in the light rather than in darkness?

v. 16

- We are described as the temple of the living God. What is the significance of being called God's temple?
- What are characteristics of God's temple? How does that set up expectations for us as a group?

v. 17

- From whom should we come out and be separate?
- Why does God want us to separate from unbelievers?
- What do you think that separation looked like for the Christians in Corinth who received this letter and put it into practice?
- What does that separation look like from a practical perspective for you today?

v. 18

- What's the promise if we do come out and be separate?
- Why is that important to you? How does that guide your life?

v. 1 (chapter 7)

- According to this passage, how do "complete" or "perfect" HOLINESS in your life?
- What should motivate us to do that? (Answer: "these promises")
- What does contamination mean? How can you take steps today to purify yourself from everything that contaminates body and spirit?

Closing Charge: Throughout the history of God's people, the greatest obstacle to holiness has been the tie of affection in an unequal yoke with those who are not righteous, real, and Christlike believers. For good reason... it's easy to let our hearts get yoked and it's difficult to separate from that yoke. Affection blinds us to the great promise of being sons and daughters to God. Don't turn a blind eye to God's promise.

Resist The Conforming Pressure Of The World

Main Idea: We Are Conforming In One Way Or Another. We Either Conform To Our Evil Desires Or We Conform To The Word Of God Which Purifies Us To Become Holy.

Q: How Would You Define The Word 'Holy'?

- Simply Defined, It Is Being Set Apart. After God Delivers Israel From Egypt, He Calls For Them To Be Set Apart From Other Nations. We Are Given The Same Call, To Be Set Apart, In The New Testament.

Text: 1 Peter 1.13-16

Q: Why Should We Strive To Be Holy?

- God Commands It. Peter's Words Are A Repetition Of God's Words To Israel, "Be Holy Because I Am Holy". Also, To Be Like God.

Q: How Do We Go About Being Holy?

- Holiness Is Neither Natural Nor Easy, But Peter Gives Us Direction:
 1. In Our Conduct (Not A Set Of Rules, But A Lifestyle)

Q: What Would 'Holy' Conduct Look Like? (Holy Conduct Batman!) Not Conforming To Former Desires (Holiness Is A Choice. We Conform To Our Desires, Or We Conform To The Life God Desires)

Q: What Are Some Ideas, Habits, Or Concepts People Conform To?

Q: What Does It Mean To Conform To Our Desires? (The Idea Of Conforming Means To Take Shape Especially Concerning Our Mind And Character. In Essence, We Choose What Shapes Our Character. This Same Idea Of Conforming Is Expressed In Phil 2.7 Where Jesus Conforms To The Nature Of A Human Man; God Reshaped Himself In The Form Of A Man.)

Q: Imagine If Every Time You Ate A Certain Food, You Would Conform To That Food. What Might Some Of Us Look Like?

Q: Imagine If Every Time You Give In To An Evil Desire, You Become More Like That Desire. What Might Some Of Us Look Like?

Q: In A Spiritual Sense, What Is The Eventual Outcome Of Conforming To Evil Desires?

In Contrast, Each Time You Decide To Be Holy, You Shape Your Character To Become More Holy. The Difference Would Be Obvious Allowing Us To 'Shine Like Stars In The Universe'

The Call: Holiness Is Not Popular, However, We Are Called To Be Holy. The Strive For Holiness Is Not A Natural Process But One That Develops As We Obey God's Word. In Order To Call Others Out Of Darkness, We Must Shine. The College Years Will Definitely Reveal Our Desires. Consider What Desires Are Shaping Your Character. It Is Much Easier To Conform To The Desires Of This World, But More Rewarding To Conform To The Will Of God.