

URGENT

CIRCA ROMAE
1st century
CIRCA ROMAE



R o m a n s

Indicative: What is

Imperative: What must be

Indicative: What has been done for you

Rom. 6:6, You were crucified with Christ

**Rom. 6:13, You have been brought from death to
life**

Rom. 6:18, You have been set free

Imperative: What must be done by you

Rom. 6:12, Don't let sin reign

Rom. 6:13, Don't offer yourselves to sin

Rom. 6:19, Offer yourselves to God

Moralism View: "I can obey God by my own efforts."

Magic View: "I can simply let my new nature take its course"

Obedience is not automatic

**Settled fact: "I am free from slavery
to sin."**

**Ongoing act: "I must choose to live
free from slavery to sin."**

Rom. 6:15-16 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Rom. 6:17-18 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Rom. 6:19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

Rom. 6:20-21 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

**Slavery to righteousness = Real
human freedom**

**Shame = "The hidden shackles of
sin"**

Rom. 6:22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Three contrasts here:

1. Two possible masters people can serve (sin or God)
2. Two possible outcomes of that service (death or life)
3. Two possible ways to obtain that outcome (a wage earned or a gift received)

"Absolute freedom?"

Rom. 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

A choice is a deliberation between alternatives...with a view to what is best.

We do what makes sense to us.

Heb. 5:13-14 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil

**We do not have to live in the slavery
of freedom to sin.**

**We can live in the freedom of
slavery to righteousness.**

Balancing the facts and the acts

**Believing what God has done and
said about what "is true"**

**Trusting and obeying God day to day
for what "can be true"**