

Which Master Will You Obey?

Romans 6.15-23

According to recent polls, nearly half of Christians think living together before marriage is acceptable. God calls it sin. Until we take marriage as seriously as God does, we'll never transform our society. Will we model righteousness, or succumb to sin? Only one can be your master.

God's Plan for Sex in Marriage is Clear...

- Genesis 2.24-25
- Matthew 19.5-6
- Ephesians 5.31-33

Do we understand the danger of sin? (Romans 6.15-23)

- Why does Paul ask, "Shall we sin...?" (15)
- Why does Paul say we shouldn't sin? (16-18)
- The choice we are free to make daily (19-21)
- Will you experience the wages of sin, or eternal life? (22-23)



1. The institution of marriage is under attack in the world – as it has been from the dawn of creation! Why do you think Satan would be so interested in destroying the family? How does the destruction of the family impact the spread of the gospel?
2. Satan's goal is to 'kill' every marriage through divorce – something God hates (Mal. 2.16)! But Satan often 'plants the seeds of divorce' before a couple ever says "I do," by getting them to "steal from their future joy" by living together before they get married. Why do you think God designed physical sex *only* within the boundaries of the marriage covenant? What does the "try before you buy" mentality of cohabitation before marriage produce in a subsequent relationship?
3. In Romans 6.14, Paul writes, *Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace* (NLT). But then he asks, *Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning?* (v15). This passage is written to Christians! Why would Paul ask Christians this question?! Read the rest of the paragraph to v23, then reflect on the following questions:
 - Before I was saved, what was I a 'slave' to? What was I 'free' to do? What was I unable to do?
 - Since being saved, what am I a 'slave' to? What am I 'free' to do (whether I should or not!)?
 - What is the result *now* if I choose to return to the 'plantation of sin' and serve my old master? To whom will I become a slave?
 - What "wages" does sin pay? How do we experience this in our Christian lives? What is the "eternal life" that God freely gives to us? How do we experience this in our lives *now*?

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