

Free From The Law

"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." Romans 6:14

1. It would be great if this passage said, "sin *might not* have dominion over you." But it said, "*shall not.*"
2. This is more than a possibility of a sinless life, but an absolute promise of a sinless life, *with conditions met.*
 - a. *"These things we write to you that you sin not."*
 - b. *"If you do these things, you shall never fail."*
 - c. *"Do not let sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies."*
 - d. *"Go and sin no more."*
3. Paul tells us grace gives an absolute that the law could never give, power over sin.
4. Instead of giving freedom from sin, the law guaranteed we would sin.
 - a. The more you try to be righteous by the law, the more sin is present and increases.
 - b. The harder you work, the deeper into sin you go.
 - c. The law awakens and strengthens sin, the flesh.
5. On the other hand, we know that sinlessness in anyone, including Christians, is self-deception.
 - a. Sinners commit sins because it is their fallen nature.
 - b. Christians sin even with a newly created nature because the presence of the flesh remains.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8
 - c. Sinlessness is the possible goal for the believer only.
 - d. Although it will never be attained, it is our goal. Perfection arrives a little more each day.
 - e. This is the renewing of the mind, daily progress toward having the mind of Christ.
6. Grace frees us from the law then enables the power of God to rule our lives from the ever-present Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Christian does not live his life from the law, but from the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
 - b. The Christian does not keep the law by keeping the law but fulfills the law by following the Holy Spirit. *"The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus had made me free from the law (Mosaic) of sin and death."* Romans 8:2

7. *"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."*
Romans 6:14
The second half of the verse also begins with the word *for*, as did the first half. It says, *"...for you are not under the law but under grace."*
 - a. We, as born-again Christians, are declared to be under grace and not under the law.
 - b. The first half is a declaration of a change of ownership and freedom from slavery.
 - c. We were under the dominion of sin. Now we are under the dominion of freedom.
 - d. We must choose to live in this new freedom from the law.
 - e. We must not use our new freedom as liberty to the nature of the flesh to sin.
8. Many Black citizens of the United States were under slavery until they were emancipated after the Civil War.
 - a. Once freed, many became political leaders, inventors, and musicians.
 - b. They took advantage of the change from being owned by slave masters to being free members of American society like everyone else.
 - i. They were as free as other natural citizens to sit anywhere on a bus, eat in any restaurant, apply to a college or university, or work for any business or corporation.
 - ii. Our lives have been greatly blessed by their contributions.
 1. Examples are George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington, Etta James, etc.
 2. Great contributions have come from Black doctors, congressmen, and Supreme Court Justices.
 - iii. The enemies to freedom of Black Americans proclaimed they could do anything they felt like at any time they wanted: break windows, rob stores, burn buildings, or kill police... In other words, "get even with those who robbed their lives".
9. In the parallel to the Christian life, we were all in slavery to sin, under the dominion of sin, spiritual death, and Satan.
 - a. Now that we have been born again, we have been emancipated and do not have to live in bondage. If we do, it's because we choose to.
 - b. But tyranny will not have dominion over us for we are under freedom and not slavery.
 - c. We have not been set free to sin anytime and anyplace we want.
 - d. "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:13
 - i. We can choose to live in rioting, drunkenness, or lust.
 - ii. Or we can choose to live in love toward God and others.
 - e. We are no longer under the law, but we are not lawless.
 - i. Sin in the Christian life steals from others.
 - ii. Righteousness contributes to and serves the needs of others.
10. There are five different uses of the word "law" in the book of Romans.

- a. The whole legal principle.
 - i. Law applied to any person, Jew or Gentile.
 - ii. Used in this manner would mean freedom from the Roman law, which we as citizens of the U.S. are not under, as would any nation of the 21st century.
- b. The Jewish Law given by God to Moses on Sinai.
- c. Each individual ordinance or commandment of the Mosaic Law.
 - i. Dietary laws.
 - ii. Sanitary laws.
 - iii. Days, weeks, and months of Sabbaths and feasts.
- d. There are principles which now work in our lives of righteousness.
 - i. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is a reference to the new law written in our hearts, which causes us to look and act like Jesus in the earth (Romans 8:2).
 - ii. This exists in every believer but is only a potential. We must choose to live by this law.
- e. We can walk in freedom from the law, which works in the lives of those who do not have eternal life.
 - i. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).
 - ii. Although this verse begins speaking to believers, it refers to the law of the flesh found in both.
 - iii. But since the unbeliever does not have the new nature in their spirit, they have only the law of sin and death found in their flesh and body.
 - iv. This law came through the disobedience of Adam in the Garden, which threw all humanity into sin and under control of the law of sin.
 - v. When we receive Jesus as Savior, we gain the power to walk in freedom. All we need to do is choose to use that power.