
Sunday, September 27, 2015

Did You Know?

Freedom

The bible tells us that we are all slaves—slaves to one thing or another. In Romans 6:16 Paul tells us that we are slaves to that which we obey. Therefore, all of us are either enslaved to sin or we are slaves of Christ. There is no third option. A slave must do what his master commands and if sin is our master then we either willingly or unwillingly must obey him. We do not have a choice.

Let me say this as a sidebar. If you claim to be a Christian, yet see no change in regards to sin—meaning that you don't hate sin more or you don't see yourself not sinning more—then you at least have to ask yourself if you are truly a Christian. Even though our victory over sin will not be complete until we meet Jesus face-to-face, we should still see the marks of our change in ownership. We should be seeing the evident signs of victory over the sins that once enslaved us.

Before you sink into despair let me say this. We are fighting against a most formidable foe in the devil. As well, it seems that some sins that enslaved us before we were Christian are overcome almost immediately upon our conversion, but victory over other sins seem to be like chipping away at a mountain with a dental tool. Sins like lust or greed or pride or anger can often take years to see any measureable change. Don't lose heart. God has provided everything we need for our holiness.

What do slaves want more than anything? Freedom! Slaves want freedom! To be set free we need a great emancipator. God broke the power of sin's mastery over our lives through the Gospel; that is, when Jesus died and rose again, he broke the power of sin in our lives. I believe it was Augustine who said something like this:

1. Before we became Christians we **cannot not** sin.
2. After becoming a Christians we **can** not sin.
3. Once we are in glory we **cannot** sin.

Before coming to Christ, all our deeds were sinful, even our alleged good ones. Why? Because they were done for ourselves, for our self-righteousness and they were done apart from faith, as scripture tells us, "without faith it is impossible to please the Lord.", but because of the gospel, we have been liberated and the chains of slavery to sin have been broken and cast aside. God has given us a new supernatural ability to not sin, to actually obey and honor God with our heart and deeds. Every Christian has already experienced this, but this is not the end of the story. Upon entering glory, our sinful natures will be gone once and for all and we will be unable to think a sinful thought, let alone commit a sinful deed. All our motives will be pure and we will seek only to honor and glorify our great and holy God.

Fellow sinner, what set you free from sin initially? It was the gospel. What will continue to break the enslaving power of sin in our lives? Could it be anything less than the Christ of the gospel?

Pastor Peter