

# Freedom to do what is Right

**Introduction** – A universal problem: How can we do what is right?

*If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it. Be careful to do what is right... Genesis 4:7; Romans 12:17*

- The source of the problem: Adam's wrong choice, accompanied by ours, brought a separation between God and ourselves. We're now in a state of disobedience and under condemnation without the ability to correct the problem – or do what is right – particularly in the vertical relationship with God. See Romans 3:10,23; 5:12
- Jesus Christ came to rescue us: As our Representative He has redeemed us.

Through failure to obey God we are now without righteousness (Romans 3:10). Jesus obeyed the law perfectly for each believer (John 8:29). His obedience is now imputed to those who believe on Him – and God sees us as completely righteous in Christ. He now accepts and approves of us. See Romans 5:1,19; 8:1-4; 10:4; Galatians 4:4-6

Our disobedience also made us guilty (Romans 3:23). Jesus died in our place, bearing our guilt and condemnation (Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7). The value of His death is now imputed to all believers. As a result we are completely forgiven. See Acts 10:43; Romans 5:8; 8:1

Our disobedience also brought us into bondage to sin, error, the world and Satan. Jesus came to break the power of sin and defeat the devil for us (Romans 6:6,14; Colossians 1:13,14; 1 John 3:8). His victory has been imputed to us. As we live in fellowship with Him that deliverance is available to us and enables us to say “No” to Satan, and the sin, error, and wrong priorities with which he attacks us. As we practice our freedom from the enemy we are set free from such bondage, and enabled to do what is right. See Romans 6:11-13, 16-18; Ephesians 1:17-21

The Lord Jesus has also given the Holy Spirit to all believers (John 14:16-20; 16:13,14; Acts 1:8; 2:32,33). He has come to teach us the truth, guide us in our daily life, protect us, and anoint us for life and service. In particular He enables us to receive and practice the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus. See Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 1:17-22; 3:14-21; 5:17-20

The Lord Jesus also represented us in His Resurrection and Ascension. In fact we were raised and seated with Him in heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:4-6). By these great deeds He provided the ability to live above sin (Colossians 3:1-17) as well as the authority and power to resist the devil (Ephesians 1:17-23). All believers share the benefits of these events – and can use that victory to live in freedom and do what is right.

- It is very important to understand that while this amazing provision is given fully to every believer – it is largely in the form of a legal gift. We have it as a checkbook – totally without benefit until checks are written. We must make decisions to obey God – to do what is right – before the power becomes a reality in our daily life. Consider the significance of the following verses.

*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. Romans 6:17,18*

*Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth ... 1 Peter 1:22*

- The Biblical principle is very encouraging. The Lord Jesus dwells within us by the presence of the Holy Spirit to dispense His redeeming power through our decisions of faith and love. When we make a decision to obey Him – His grace and power – join with our decision to accomplish His will. That's what make an honest decision so very powerful – the power of sin is broken, the enemy must go, prayer is answered, etc.

*Therefore ... as you have always obeyed ... continue to work out your salvation (make decisions in harmony with salvation) with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

*Philippians 2:12,13 (See also John 1:12; 14:12-14; and Hebrews 13:20,21)*

- A major hindrance in living this kind of life is our failure to understand how serious our sin really is. Consider some of the effects of not choosing to do what is right.

All sin is rooted in unbelief, which says to God, “I don't think You're powerful enough to help me.” Do we want to continue to say that to Him?

Sin is grieving to the Holy Spirit – it pushes Him out of the problem.

Sin is self-destructive – we cannot escape its effects of slavery and a hard heart.

Sin opens the door to the enemy – we give our problem more to his control.

It may be necessary for us to ask God for a deep humbling and conviction regarding sin. Many are not convicted enough to repent. Such a lethargic state is dangerous – and sinful.

- The Bible presents a pattern of obedience that is helpful to follow.

*Put off your old self* – (choose to reject the sin – be aggressive – don't give in)

*Be made new in the attitude of your minds* – (find the truth regarding the problem)

*Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness* – (choose the right)

- A suggestion: Pray in honesty. Be aggressive by faith even though you don't feel like it. Use words like: “I rebuke, break down, repudiate, refuse to give in, bring the blood of Jesus Christ against ... command it has to leave me.” Repetition may be necessary.

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