

GOTTA SERVE SOMEBODY by Bob Dylan

You may be an ambassador to England or France,
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance,
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world,
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,
You might be a rock 'n' roll addict prancing on the stage,
You might have drugs at your command, women in a cage,
You may be a business man or some high degree thief,
They may call you Doctor or they may call you Chief
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,
You may be a state trooper, you might be a young Turk,
You may be the head of some big TV network,
You may be rich or poor, you may be blind or lame,
You may be living in another country under another name
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,

You may be a construction worker working on a home,
You may be living in a mansion or you might live in a dome,
You might own guns and you might even own tanks,
You might be somebody's landlord, you might even own banks
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,

You may be a preacher with your spiritual pride,
You may be a city councilman taking bribes on the side,
You may be workin' in a barbershop, you may know how to cut hair,
You may be somebody's mistress, may be somebody's heir
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,
You might like to eat caviar, you might like to eat bread,
You may be sleeping on the floor, sleeping in a king-sized bed
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody.

Question Apostle Paul asks the Romans > Who are you going to Serve?

CONTEXT - 2 WRONG IDEAS THIS CHAPTER CHALLENGES > SIMILAR

1. IF Salvation in Christ is Guaranteed – it cannot be lost – why not live a life of sin? Let us live like Hell, because we know we are going to Heaven.
2. If we are saved by Grace, apart from the Law, why should we obey the Law?

ANSWERS with 2 Images

- v. 1-14 DIED to SIN thru BAPTISM / Risen to New Life by Faith in Christ
 v. 15-23 CHANGED from SLAVES of SIN / to SERVANTS of LORD JESUS

JOHN STOTT > Points out 5 SIMILARITIES between 2 sections of Romans 6

1. Both are prompted by statement of praise for God's grace.

5.20 "grace increased all the more"

v. 15 "we are not under law but under grace"

2. Both begin with the same probing question about sin

v. 1 "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?"

v. 15 "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?"

3. Both answer the question with outraged indignation – vs. 2 & 15 "By no means!"

4. Both diagnose the same reason for sinfulness > Ignorance of what God has done

5. Both teach a radical discontinuity between our old life and new life in Christ

v. 2 "We died to sin, how can we live in it any longer?"

v. 16 (paraphrased) "We offered ourselves as slaves to obedience, how can we repudiate our commitment?"

1. Our Cruel Master

a. Defining our Master > “gotta serve somebody” WE ARE DOING SO!

v. 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?”

PREMISE > No such thing as ABSOLUTE FREEDOM for Anyone

IMAGE OF SLAVERY > Echoes of Teaching of Jesus

John 8.34 Jesus: "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

BEHIND the CRUEL MASTER OF SIN IS AN EVEN MORE CRUEL MASTER

2 Cor 11.14 “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”

Rev 12.9 “The great dragon...that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.”

b. Delight of our Master – Sin is Fun, Some is Even More Fun

HAPPY AS HOGS AT THE TROUGH / served up a big sloppy portion of Sin

v. 20 “When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.”

SIN IS A SORT OF FREEDOM > also known as moral license

JOHN MURRAY “...they were not the bondservants of righteousness and righteousness, therefore, did not exercise its authority and mastery over them. They were carefree in respect to demands of righteousness; with undivided heart and single eye they were bondservants of sin, and that was the only mastery they knew.

WE'RE ALL LOOKING TO BE FREE > “I can't wait to get to High School.. To get to College...to leave my parents behind...get a job...retire...what's next!

DELIGHT OF SIN IS SHORT LIVED – testimony of Moses

Hebrews 11.25 “Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.”

c. Delusion of our Master > WHAT SEEMED SO GREAT HAS FOOLED US

v. 21 “the things you are now ashamed of”

LIKE A DRUNK ON THE MORNING AFTER > friend gives the nights report
“You’re kidding, No! Did I really do that?! How can I face my friends again?”

v. 19 “slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness”

GREEK “you have yielded your members slaves...to wickedness unto wickedness

PROCESS > From Slavery to Impurity and to Ever-increasing Wickedness

IMPURITY > Sin as it effects the Individual, Personal Defilement

WICKEDNESS > Violation of divine or human laws

“Impurity refers principally to the pollution, Wickedness to the guilt of sin”

ROBERT HALDANE

DOWN HILL PATH OF SIN > MADE CLEAR IN ROMANS 1

Psa 1 > walk in counsel of wicked> stand in way of sinners> sit in seat of mockers

KARL MENNINGER – Well-known Christian Psychiatrist USA > wrote:

“Whatever Became of Sin?” Sin has all but disappeared from our national consciousness – with disastrous results. Sin first became ‘crime’ – breaking the law of man. And then crime became ‘symptoms’ – caused by factors external to the offender. Therefore man is a victim, he is no longer responsible.”

UGANDAN PREACHERS often told about -

BEAUTIFUL SHIP IN LAKE VICTORIA – smiling Captain invites you Aboard
Anything and Everything – free for the Asking

PLAY FOOTBALL IN THE BALL ROOM > NO PROBLEM

WOMEN / MEN / DRINK / MONEY / All Man’s Toys and Temptation

AS YOU BOARD – NOTICE SMALL SIGN – TOO EXCITED TO READ IT

SIGN HAS IMPORTANT MESSAGE > Warning! This Ship Will Sink

CAPTAIN > Devil Himself / WANTS YOU TO GO DOWN WITH HIM

d. Destiny of our Master END OF THIS PATH > DEATH

CAPTAIN AND THE SHIP ARE GOING DOWN > sinking in Lake of Fire
 v. 16 “sin, which leads to death” / v. 21 “Those things result in death!”
 v. 23 “For the wages of sin is death” / Sin Pays Wages / Get what you Deserve
 NOT PHYSICAL DEATH > Righteous also experience Physical Death
 ETERNAL DEATH > HELL > EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT FOR SIN

ESSAY by C.S. LEWIS – “The Weight of Glory”

Premise > People are ETERNAL CREATURES – daily changing becoming
 MORE LIKE GOD or MORE LIKE THE DEVIL > treat others better

“It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which if you saw them now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, in a nightmare... There are no *ordinary* people. You have never talked to a *mere* mortal. It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit – immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

WHAT WE DO NOW SHAPES WHAT WE WILL BE ONE DAY
 THERE IS A BETTER DESTINY > A BETTER MASTER WE CAN SERVE

2. Christ our Master

a. ONE IMAGE – of our Life with God > Bible uses many images of our life in
 X

v. 19 “I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves”
 DULL of Perception or in Character > Still Vulnerable to Temptation

JESUS: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

John 15.13

FOR MOST OF US – word “Slavery” is Very NEGATIVE
 WELL IT SHOULD > Cruel Scourge of slavery / History of many of our Nations

ROMAN EMPIRE > 60% of Population were Slaves

MANY OF THE FIRST READERS OF THIS LETTER OF PAUL > Slaves
 Most > Captured in WAR or Bought in the MARKETPLACE

HISTORIAN “People in dire poverty could offer themselves as slaves to someone simply in order to be housed and fed”

NOT ALL CRUELLY TREATED / included Teachers, Businessmen, & Doctors
CHRISTIAN IS NOT CALLED “ABDULLAH” – slave of God

GOD CALLS US AS SONS BEFORE HE CALLS US SERVANTS

OT TESTAMENT – Slaves by Choice > A Slavery based on DEVOTION
Exodus 21 - "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything..."But if the servant declares, 'I love my master...and do not want to go free,' then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life."

CONVERSION INVOLVES AN EXCHANGE OF SLAVERIES
ULTIMATELY ONLY TWO SLAVERIES IN LIFE > TO SIN OR TO GOD

THIS SLAVERY IS THE WILLING RESPONSE TO JOY OF SONSHIP
GOD’S SONS SERVE HIM WITH GLADNESS
BELIEVERS > Rescued from the Lordship of Sin unto Lordship of Christ

b. Key to Release > Knowing

v. 3 “*don't you know*” / v. 6 “*For we know* that our old self was crucified with him”

v. 9 “*For we know*” / v. 11 “*count yourselves* dead to sin but alive to God in Christ

v. 16 “Don't you know...” / KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

v. 17 “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.”

TWO THINGS WE CAN LEARN ABOUT MINISTRY

1) IMPORTANCE OF DOCTRINE “form of teaching to which you were entrusted

“FORM” = STANDARD > Pattern of Sound Teaching / Apostolic Instruction

FIRST BELIEVERS “devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching” Acts 2.42

Paul told Timothy about: “the pattern of sound teaching”

“the good deposit that was entrusted to you” 2 Tim 1.13,14

BASIC GOSPEL DOCTRINE / BASIC GUIDELINES OF DISCIPLESHIP
C.K. BARRETT “One expects the doctrine to be handed over to the hearers, not the hearers to the doctrine. But Christians are...created by the word of God, and remain in subjection to it”

2) TARGET OF OUR TEACHING – where do we aim?

Some at Heart – “wholeheartedly” > EMOTIONS > Result > Emotionalism

Some at Will – “obeyed” > BEHAVIOR > Result > LEGALISM

PAUL at the Mind – “form of teaching” > DOCTRINAL TRUTH

Result > OBEDIENCE from the Whole HEART / Love Him & Keep Commands

John 8.32 Jesus said, " you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
The (Jews) answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

SO ENSLAVED THEY COULD NOT SEE IT
HE COULD HAVE EASILY MOCKED THEIR POLITICAL IGNORANCE
Jews had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years
During period of Judges > Israel was captured by foreign powers 7 X's
70 years captive in Babylon >> AS THEY SPOKE – a Roman Colony

INSTEAD OF SHOWING THEIR POLITICAL IGNORANCE /
JESUS EMPHASIZED THEIR SPIRITUAL BONDAGE -
Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin...
So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

c. Requirement for the Slaves of Christ > Obey

v. 16 “offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey”

v. 17 “you wholeheartedly obeyed”

v. 22 “now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God”

UNCOMFORTABLE Idea > Obedience – Not Saved by Law or Works – ch 3 & 4

TRUE > but we are saved for works / OBEDIENCE is Sign of Reality of Salvation

16.25 “proclamation of Jesus Christ... that all nations might believe and obey him”

ABRAHAM > Great man of FAITH – why? because of Great OBEDIENCE
 Heb 11.17 “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice.”

Phil 2.12,13 “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose”

IN THIS CONTEXT > Obedience is SYNONYM for Belief

v. 17 “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.”

1.5 “the obedience that comes from faith”

v. 19 // 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

YOU USED TO OFFER YOURSELVES AS SLAVES TO SIN
 NOW OFFER YOURSELF AS SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

DIFFERENCE – change of IMAGE from Instruments to Slaves
 REPEATS THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL POINT

WHY? > No Other Way to Grow in Righteousness

No Secret Formula for Holiness / No Magic Recipe / NO SILVER BULLET

ONLY WAY TO BE HOLY – DISCIPLINE ourselves > Know and Do
 KNOW WHAT GOD has DONE FOR US IN CHRIST > Live Accordingly

SUBMIT > Minds, Eyes, Ears, Mouths, Hands, & Feet to Lord Jesus Christ

WE LIVE IN THE DAY OF THE QUICK FIX

30 Minute Photo Developing / One Hour Dry Cleaning

FAST ACTING PAIN RELIEVER > everything has EASY SOLUTION

DEPRESSED – watch a movie, go shopping, pop a pill, eat something

CHRISTIAN VARIANT “let go, and let God” / “name it, claim it”

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES > pours cold water on our modern thinking

“You have already received ‘all things that pertain to life and godliness.’ You do not need another experience. You do not need a new gift. You have been given everything in Christ; you are ‘in Him’ from the beginning of your Christian life. You are just a slacker and a cad, just lazy and indolent, indeed ‘a liar,’ if you are not living this life.”

SIX PROPOSITIONS OF LLOYD-JONES

1. Paul’s teaching about Sanctification in vs. 11-13 & 19 is a COMMAND

FIRST COMMAND that we read in the entire book of Romans

Jesus > our Commanding Officer – ORDERS our Allegiance and Obedience

2. God has given us ABILITY TO OBEY this Command

v. 17,18 “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.”

3. COMMAND to OBEY based on Something that ALREADY HAPPENED

v. 2 “We died to sin”

v. 5 “If we have been united with him like this in his death”

v. 6 “our old self was crucified with him”

v. 8 “we died with Christ”

v. 18 “You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness”

EXPERIENCE OF ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS > What God has Done for Them

4. KEY to Sanctification > REALIZE OUR POSITION, ACT ACCORDINGLY

BIBLE DOES NOT SAY > Christ has been crucified for you, therefore you also must be crucified > POPULAR TEACHING, BUT NOT FOUND IN BIBLE

5. DEMAND IS UTTERLY REASONABLE

Before we were Saved > WE SERVED SIN

Now that we are Saved > WE SERVE CHRIST

WE DIED TO SIN, HOW CAN WE LIVE IN IT ANY LONGER?

**6. FAILURES in our Christian Life > Fail to Know who we are in Christ,
or Fail to Apply these Truths to our Conduct**

d. Results of Serving Christ

v. 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. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SLAVERY TO GOD > Results in Our Perfect Freedom / Created to Serve Him

v. 19 “Slavery UNTO righteousness leading to holiness”

Righteousness = RIGHT ACTS / “Holiness” = Inward conformity to will of God

**Righteousness leads to Holiness > Outward godliness leads to Inward Godliness
DOING the RIGHT THINGS TAKES US FURTHER IN SPIRITUAL
GROWTH**

**END OF THIS SPIRITUAL LIFE – v. 22 “eternal life” – abundant, everlasting
ETERNAL FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD / SOURCE OF OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

e. CHOICE before Us All

JOHN STOTT “Here are two completely different lives, lives totally opposed to one another – the life of the old self, and the life of the new. They are what Jesus termed the broad road that leads to destruction and the narrow road that leads to life. Paul calls them two slaveries. By birth we are slaves of sin; by grace and faith we have become slaves of God. The slavery of sin yields no return, except a steady, moral deterioration and finally death. The slavery of God yields the precious return of sanctification and finally eternal life. The argument of this

section, then, is that our conversion – this act of yielding or surrender to God – leads to a status of slavery, and slavery involves obedience.”

THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND > you gotta serve somebody

THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO GO –

MOSES TOLD ISRAEL - “See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction...This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live”
Deut 30.15-19

JOSHUA - “if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”
Josh 24.15

JESUS "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”
Matt 7.13,14

Samson – God-appointed Judge – Power to tear apart a Lion with his Bare Hands
BUT NO POWER TO CONTROL HIS SEXUAL APPETITES
Those Appetites LED TO A BITTER DEATH

DEATH PICTURES VICTORY OF GOD THE REDEEMER FROM SIN

“Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands."..."Bring out Samson to entertain us." ...When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them." Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women... Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.”

Judges 16.23-30

LORD JESUS CHRIST > Wounded for our Transgressions > Crown of Thorns

STRETCHED OUT HIS ARMS IN DEATH > brought down the Temple of
Satan

HE DIED TO MAKE US FREE > SACRIFICE RELEASED THE CAPTIVES

BECAUSE HE DIED AND LIVES > Cruel Master CRUSHED
POWER OF NEW LIFE AT WORK IN US > Servants of Righteousness

Romans 6.¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.