

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
IHOP BIBLE STUDY**

**# 9 Romans 6:15 - 23 “The Need for Christ’s Ethic” -- with commentary**

The purpose of the Letter to the Romans is to develop a “Model for Living the Awakened/Transformed Life.” **Today’s study is the 9th of 27 lessons.**

According to our Study Chart we are studying the 1<sup>st</sup> section of “Know The Relationship of Sin and The Law.” This is the second of two sessions in this lesson series.

**Contextual Statement**

According to the Roman’s Chart, this is a third section of our Romans’ chart. Christ’s ethic enables us to appropriate the relationship of Sin and The Law.

**Read the assignment.**

**Note:** Paul uses an interesting literary method during our lesson. A picture of this method is as follows:

<p align="center"><b>DEAD TO SIN</b> <b>6: 1 - 23</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>THROUGH THE FATHER</b> <b>6: 4</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>ALIVE TO CHRIST</b> <b>6: 1 – 23</b></p>
<p>Vss. 1-4, Do we go on sinning? Vss. 5-7, Old self crucified with Christ so that the body of sin is thrown away. Some one died to free us from sin.</p> <p>Vss. 8-10, We died with Christ. Death no long master over Christ. The death he died, he died to sin once and for all. Vss. 8-10, Died with Christ</p> <p>Vss. 11-14, Count yourselves dead to sin. Don’t let sin reign in your mortal bodies so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness. Sin shall not be your master. ---</p> <p>Vss 15-23, Natural selves are weak. Evidence: give yourselves to impurity and wickedness. We are slaves of sin—free from righteousness and ashamed of things. The wages of sin is death</p>	<p><b>The IHOPers began their session with a review of Session 8 and 9.</b></p> <p><b>This image demonstrates the significance of Paul’s message that we are “Dead To Sin,” and “Alive To Christ” THROUGH THE FATHER.</b></p> <p><b>In other words, the significance of our transformation comes in a relationship to God the Father. The word “Father” further illuminates that this experience is a relationship.</b></p> <p><b>The IHOPers named this experience “New Birth,” and “Eternal Life.” It is helpful to remember that only God is eternal. Consequently, when we have eternal life means we are standing in God’s presence.</b></p>	<p>So that grace may abound?</p> <p>United with him in death and resurrection.</p> <p>We live with him. Raised from the dead so that we can’t die again. But the life he lives, he lives to God.</p> <p>Be alive to Christ. Rather offer yourselves to God as those brought from death to life, and offer the parts of your body to God as instruments of righteousness not under the Law but under Grace. ----</p> <p>So now offer your body in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. We are set free from sin. We are slaves to God. This benefit leads to holiness. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p>

**Before reviewing this lesson, define the following:**

**1) Natural selves:**

**WS:** Proudful. Self-centered. Unawakened. Human. Weak. Observe that these experiences are not moral in nature, but descriptive of actions and/or relationships.

**2) Holiness:**

**WS:** Fully awake. Kindness. Compassion. Fulfilling our intended creation.

**3) Righteousness:**

**WS:** Awake and living in a right, or full, relationship to our created essence.

**4) Death:**

**WS:** Endlessness without meaning of a “self.” In Paul’s usage death is living without a “self;” i.e., living without a “personality” It is only as we awaken to live in the presence of God do we have such a “self.” Further, whenever we awaken to the discovery of a “self” it can be said we are standing in the presence of God. An expression of the “self” is to live the humane life.

*For an interesting discussion of Paul’s understanding of “death” as the death of the self (or personality) see Edwin Cyril Blackman’s interpretation in the Abingdon One-Volume Commentary on the Bible. “Sinful Body (vs. 6) p. 779.*

**I. When we are slaves to righteousness, in what ways do we escape slavery?**

**WS:** According to Paul, it is impossible to escape one form of slavery or another.

**A. Vs. 19a – What does Paul mean that we are “weak in our natural selves.”**

**WS:** In Gut Trip Analysis, being weak in our natural selves is to live the unawakened life, or we would not be weak. Our awakened strength comes from the source of spiritual strength itself that is God (Perfect At-One-Ment). To be weak is to choose to live blind to God’s ready presence in our lives.

**B) Vs. 19b - How does being a slave to righteousness lead to Holiness?**

**WS:** Awakening to our created essence leads to living in the presence of Full At-One-Ment, i.e., holiness. Holiness defines living in the Presence of God.

**C) Vs. 20 - What does Paul mean, “When you were slaves to sin, you were free from righteousness?”**

**WS:** Is this what Jesus means that “we cannot serve two masters?” The requirement of a slave is to surrender and to be obedient. When we are “slaves to sin” we have surrendered to the antithesis of At-One-Ment or Full Awakenment.

**D) Vs. 21b – Define the kind of “death” experienced from doing the “things you are ashamed of.” What are the things we are ashamed of?**

**WS:** Because we are created to live in full awakenment (to praise God), then death is the experience of living in the antithesis of awakenment. Awakenment is experienced as living the humane life and in At-One-Ment with God, neighbor and self. In this way we fulfill the Great Commandment of Christ.

The “things I am ashamed of” is living in the antithesis of awakenment. Practically, this looks like living the *inhumane life*, such as, racism, sexism, etc., and/or the *un-human life* of self depreciation.

**E) Vs. 22 – How does being a slave to God” benefit the reaping that leads to holiness?**

**WS:** Being a slave is to dedicate our surrender and obedience to the work of Perfecting At-One-Ment. The reward for this work is full Awakening. This is not to say that we do not go back to sleep. We do! Over and over again, I will reawaken, or need to be reawakened by others. This activity of awakening others is the work of the awakened Church.

**Alright folks, talk to me.**