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Sermon Notes

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## **Reporting for Duty**

### **Romans 6:12-14**

#### I. A Barracks, Not a Clinic

- A. WWII Recruits: Boot Camp, Drill Instructor
- B. Free Clinic: Gentle Nurses, Understanding Doctors, Band-Aids and Local Anesthesia
- C. Sanctification is a WAR!! God is calling you to MARCH... not convalesce!

#### II. Context

- A. Justification by Faith Alone: Romans 3-5
- B. Refuting Key Question

***Romans 6:1 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound?”***

- 1. Why the question? Absolute security of justification by faith alone
- 2. Grace reigns like a KING!!!
- 3. In Adam or In Christ? Union is the KEY

- C. Paul’s Answer Unfolded

***vs. 2 “We died to sin... how can we live in it any longer***

***vs. 4 “We were therefore buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life.”***

***vs. 5 “If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.”***

1. Central truth: union with Christ
2. Negative effect: we died to sin
3. Positive effect: we are alive to God

#### D. New Sub-section

1. Verses 1-10: Statement of facts
2. Verses 11-14 Application of facts
3. Last week: Application #1: Win the battle for the MIND

**vs. 11** *“In the same way, COUNT YOURSELF dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

- a. “In Christ Jesus” = UNION WITH CHRIST
- b. “count yourself” = think this way... it all begins in the mind
- c. “dead to sin” = negative aspect... old man has died... sin has no power over you
- d. “alive to God” = positive aspect... new man is created... righteousness is his business

#### E. Our Marching Orders: A Series of Commands... Stated, Then Grounded

1. Command Stated Negatively: DO NOT (vs. 12-13)
  - a. applied generally to YOU
  - b. applied specifically to YOUR BODY
2. Command Stated Positively: DO (vs. 13)
  - a. applied generally to YOU
  - b. applied specifically to YOUR BODY
3. Command Grounded in Truth (vs. 14)

### III. Command Stated Negatively: DO NOT (vs. 12-13)

#### A. Applied Generally to YOU

**vs. 12** *“Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.”*

1. “Therefore...” Commands ALWAYS based on DOCTRINE!!
  - a. based on what we’ve been saying is true of you...
  - b. Paul always builds up to His commands
  - c. your understanding is essential
  - d. BECAUSE you are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus...”

***John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”***

***John 8:32 “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”***

***John 8:34 “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be truly free.”***

The truth sets us apart from the world and frees us from sin. The truth sanctifies us!!  
 Understanding the truth sets us free and makes us part of the family eternally! So, we MUST understand the truth!!!

Thus, Paul begins the commands with a THEREFORE... or we would be slaves

Slave does not know His master’s business... no reasoning with a slave, just commands!

Christ and Paul teach same truth: you are sons, so I explain truth to you

Not just “Because I’m the daddy, that’s why!!”

2. You vs. Your Mortal Body
  - a. command addressed to your new nature... your mind
  - b. “Do not let...” You have power, control in this matter... you are in charge
  - c. your mortal body is the battlefield... the scene of the struggle

NOTICE: Paul does not say “Do not let sin reign over you!!”

Why? Because that’s impossible! He already told you you yourselves are dead to sin forever

Sin CANNOT be your master!!!

BUT sin CAN reign temporarily over your mortal body

- d. “jars of clay”

***“We have this treasure in jars of clay...”***

This is your mortal body...

Key concept: you are dwelling in your mortal body, but you are NOT your mortal body

Paul calls it "mortal" because it is subject to decay and corruption... ultimately, subject to death and the grave

When you die you will leave it behind forever

***1 Corinthians 15: "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor can the perishable inherit the imperishable."***

3. The central issue here: a massive struggle for control

- a. note key words: reign and obey
- b. the issue is, who is going to call the shots over your mortal body... your new nature or sin?
- c. note the chain of command:

God

Paul

You (New nature)

Your mortal body

4. The enemy: sin using body's lusts

- a. sin... the relentless, restless, devastating foe
- b. outcome of sin's reign: obeying the mortal body's evil lusts
- c. lust = excessive desire... transgressing desire

God gives body natural desires: food, comfort, pleasure, sexual drive

Sin pushes every desire over the line into transgression

Desire becomes LUST

5. IMPLICATION: ACTIVE WARFARE, with you in charge of outcome

- a. no "sudden experience" to be expected
- b. no "let go and let God"

- c. instead, get up and fight sin day after day
- d. final victory guaranteed through Christ

Command #1: Negative and general... do not let sin reign over your mortal body

B. Applied Specifically to Your Body

***vs. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness...***

1. Asking: "But what does it mean not to let sin reign in my mortal body...?"
2. Piece by piece... every aspect
3. "Members" = every single element, every power, every capability
  - Arms, legs, hands, feet
  - Eyes, ears, nose, mouth
  - Stomach, sexual drive, earthly appetites
  - Mental powers: intellect, imagination, reason, will
  - Emotional side: passions, feelings
4. Do not present = do not offer for obedient service... do not put at the disposal of
  - a. talk more about in a moment
  - b. concept is soldiers willfully \_\_\_\_\_ over to enemy for a while
  - c. your members can then shoot at you across no man's land... but just for today!!

Utter foolishness!!

5. NOTICE: "Sin" is personalized... the great enemy stands ready to accept any of your members as his servants

Illus. Hijacking!

"Instruments" = tools of the trade, or weapons

Members not to be given over for a moment to your bitter foe

***Romans 13:14 "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to satisfy its evil desires."***

6. Go carefully over every faculty to see if its used for sin

- Is my mouth being used by sin right now to damage the work of God?
- Are my eyes being used by sin right now to corrupt my whole body & fill it with darkness?
- Are my hands making idols or weapons used to attack Christ's kingdom?
- Are my feet taking me where a Christian should not go?
- Is my stomach demanding more food than good nutrition requires?
- Is my tongue demanding that extra taste of some delicacy that my body doesn't need?
- Is my imagination carrying me in my mind to places I would never really go, to do things I would never be caught dead doing?
- Are my emotions a weak link, crying when I should be rejoicing, complaining when I should be thanking God?

Go over each faculty of your mortal body and DO NOT present them to sin to obey evil lusts!

#### IV. Command Stated Positively: DO!! (vs. 13-14)

##### A. Generally: Present Yourself to God

1. BUT RATHER... not this, but that

Thomas Chalmers's sermon: "The expulsive power of a greater affection."

Morality CANNOT be accomplished by merely negative commands: "don't do this"

Rather, growth in holiness mostly occurs by expelling the negative lust with the positive drive for God

2. "Present" = KEY word in entire section
3. Figuratively... "I'm yours to command... your slightest wish is my immediate imperative."
4. Same word used in vs. 13 first half

***vs. 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***

***Matthew 26:53 "Do you think I cannot call on my Father and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"***

Imagine with what kind of obedience those angels would come down from heaven to do the will of the Son? How quickly would they unsheath their swords and swing them at Christ's enemies? How gladly would they destroy Jerusalem if He commanded them? How completely would they put themselves totally at his command?

This is what we must do with God as well

Illus.: Angels "on earth as it is in heaven"

"All the way, right away with a happy spirit..."

This is how we must present ourselves to God

**Here I am, totally yours to command**

5. As those resurrected: "from death to life"

a. dead people can't obey God

b. people now alive to God can do ANYTHING He commands

**vs. 4** *"... just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life."*

**vs. 5** *"If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection"*

Our new nature is a new creation from God... "created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness"; it is designed for complete and joyful obedience to all of God's commands

This new nature is MOST ABLE to present itself to God

6. NOTE: lack of balance

"Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies"

"Do let God reign over YOU"

Paul is perfectly accurate and consistent... never a single misstep

Underscores again: You vs. Your mortal body

Sin CAN'T reign over YOU... your new nature CANNOT be mastered by sin... it is undefeatable

**vs. 2** *"We died to sin"*

**vs. 8-10** *"We died with Christ" "Death no longer has mastery"*

**vs. 11** *"Consider yourself dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."*

This is the Bible's consistent way of teaching sanctification: who are you in Christ? How should you live as a result

DO present yourself to God as one resurrected from the dead!!

B. Specifically: Present Your Members to God

**vs. 13** *“and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness”*

1. Each faculty of the body is to be used as a weapon of righteousness
2. “Instruments” = tools, or weapons
  - a. used by God for a purpose
  - b. purpose is clear: righteousness... God's holy purposes
3. Physical body then becomes a wondrous tool for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom
  - Feet carry the missionary across the mountains to preach the gospel
  - Hands make clothing to cover the shivering needy
  - Mouth speaks the words of the gospel to lost sinners, or the words of right doctrine to build up the saints
  - Stomach digests simple meals to nourish you for Kingdom work
  - Eyes take in God's creation to praise Him for it, or see the poor beggar to meet his need; eyes scan the pages of Holy Scripture and take in line after line of hot perfect truth
  - Intellect comprehends the deep truths of the faith so you may grow into maturity
  - Imagination fired by faith dreams great dreams for God

Hudson Taylor: “Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God.”

- Emotions weep at things which break God's heart: sin in a brother, the condition of the lost in a nation that's never heard the gospel
- Passions and memory fire up prayers and send them to God in powerful intercession for others

Every single faculty is thus presented to God as a perfect tool of righteousness



## V. Command Grounded and Doctrine Extended (vs. 14)

**vs. 14** *“For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law but under grace.”*

A. Commands Grounded in Doctrine:

***“FOR sin shall not be your master...”***

1. FOR = the reason I can command you generally and specifically is clear
2. I want you to understand WHY you must act this way

B. Fact #1: Sin shall NOT be your master

1. Restatement of doctrinal basis
2. WHO ARE YOU in Christ???
3. You are DEAD TO SIN!!
4. Therefore, sin has NO AUTHORITY over you

Here is the beginning of the “master/slave” analogy Paul will develop for the rest of the chapter

When you were a non-Christian, sin was your master

You had NO CHOICE but to obey

NOW, you have full authority to refuse sin’s advances!!!

C. Fact #2: You are not under law but under grace

**5:21** *“Just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

1. “Under law” = in sin, still in Adam, dead in transgressions and sins
  - a. law is master, commands obeyed without explanation
  - b. law stands over you to condemn you in every fault
  - c. law accuses one to eternal death in hell
2. “Under grace” = whole new realm, new regime, new master, new emperor... new land, new customs, new life

***Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.***

***Romans 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.***

***Galatians 2:21 "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"***

***Hebrews 7:18-19 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless <sup>19</sup> (for the law made nothing perfect***

Law CAN'T save

Grace CAN'T FAIL to save

***Romans 4:16 the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed***

## VI. Application

### A. Summary

- As persons, we're done with sin's dominion forever
- Our mortal bodies still wrestle with sin habits and tendencies
- If sin goes unchecked, it will DOMINATE our mortal bodies
- Body is subject to you... you can defeat sin by exercising authority over it in faith

### B. Steps laid out by Paul

Vs. 11 Consider

Vs. 12 Do not present body to sin

Vs. 13 Do not present members of your body to sin

Vs. 13 Do present self to God

Vs. 13 Do present members to God

### C. Understand and Be a Warrior for Holiness

- Importance of sanctification: Hebrews 12:14
- God's overall purpose: fruit for eternity
- Don't just live for yourself any longer... live only for Christ's Kingdom and His glory

### D. Assess Your Present Life

Am I using my hands, feet, eyes, mouth, stomach, sex drive, imagination, intellect, memory, passions, emotions

FOR SIN or FOR GOD???

- Frances Ridley Havergal "Take My Life and Let it Be"
- b. Astley England, 1836
- brilliant piano player, singer & poet
- sickly, confined to a wheelchair
- dedicated her life to serving Christ and ministering to the poor

"Take my life and let it be      Consecrated Lord to thee  
Take my moments and my days;      let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move      At the impulse of thy love  
Take my feet, and let them be      swift and beautiful for thee

Take my voice and let me sing      Always only for my King  
Take my lips and let them be      Filled with messages for thee

Take my silver and my gold      not a mite would I withhold  
Take my intellect and us      every power as thou shalt choose

Take my will and make it thine      It shall be no longer mine  
Take my heart it is thine own      It shall be thy royal throne

Take my love; my Lord I pour      at thy feet its treasure store  
Take myself and I will be      Ever only all for thee

***Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship."***