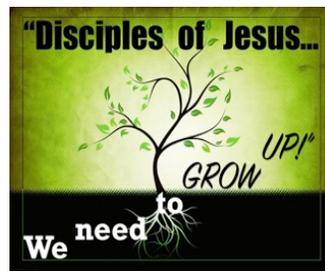


**“Disciples of Jesus ... We need to GROW UP!”**

**Part 23: “Walking in Obedience ...  
... experiencing true freedom in Christ.”**

**Ephesians 4:17-24; Romans 1:1-6, 6:15-23  
16:25-27**



Introduction: While many talk about being disciples of Jesus, there is little mention of turning away from sin to live in obedience to God’s Word.

What too many in the church fail to understand is that obedience is part of the Gospel!

It is God’s purpose to save His people from the guilt AND the POWER of sin.

The obedience Jesus calls His disciples to is a daily turning from sin to righteousness.

**God’s grace in Christ leads disciples of Jesus to live a life of joyful obedience!**

True joy is never found in indulging the sinful nature, but rather, in obedience.

**I. The unregenerate heart is a slave to sin ...**

**Romans 3:10-12:** “None is righteous, no not one ... .. no one does good, not even ONE!”

People act the way they do because they do not have the will or the power to act differently.

**Romans 6:15-23 ...** Those who have not been born again are slaves to sin, which leads to death! (Isaiah 64:6; James 2:10)

Slavery to sin means that it is what comes naturally, without any effort.

If the standard for “goodness” is determined by sinful people, it will be constantly changing.

Apart from the regeneration power of the Holy Spirit there is no hope for the individual or the world in which we live.

The unregenerate heart, though it proclaims its freedom, is a slave!

**II. In Christ, the slaves have been set free!**

Jesus came to give us NEW LIFE ... NOW!!

**Romans 6:12-15:** “ ... present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life!” (vs. 13).

**Romans 6:22-23:** “But now that you have been set free ... the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life!” (vs. 22).

**Titus 3:3-7:** “ ... He saved us ... by the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit” (vs. 5).

The evidence of regeneration is a new desire to please the One whom you now call, “Lord!”

**Ephesians 4:17-20:** “But that is not the way you learned Christ! ... assuming that you ... were taught in Him ...” (vs. 20).

**Ephesians 5:7-12:** “ ... but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light!” (vs. 8).

**Ephesians 4:20-24:** “ ... put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (vs. 24).

Where the Holy Spirit is at work there will be sorrow for sin and a desire to turn from it (to “repent”).

**III. Disciples of Jesus are now “slaves to righteousness!”**

**Romans 6:17-19:** “Thanks be to God that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart ...” (vs. 17).

Since the Garden of Eden the human race has been bound in sin, except for the grace of God to those to whom He chooses to give new life.

The result of this new life is ALWAYS heartfelt sorrow for sin and heartfelt joy in obedience.

Obedience is part of the Gospel because the grace that saves us also changes us so that we WANT to obey God.

**Romans 1:5-6:** “ ... through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith!” (Romans 16:25-27).