

Equal Service

(Rom 6:19)

- Paul's context is still answering the question concerning antinomianism
- I. Rom 6:19a- Paul has explained why he is using the example here
 - A) Rom 6:19b- Paul now gives his exhortation to practice
 - 1. This part of v.19 is parallel to v.13
 - B) Terms
 - 1. "Yield"- to offer up in service, to present to one for use, to give oneself over to another
 - 2. "Members"- our bodies, but also all our parts: faculties, abilities, talents, our all
 - 3. "Uncleanness"- impure motives, lustful desires, foul-mindedness
 - 4. "Iniquity"- lawlessness
 - 5. "Righteousness"- correctness, virtue, as a thing should be
 - 6. "Holiness"- purified, consecrated, sanctified
- II. "As → "even so"
 - A) This figure of speech is the determining factor of the whole text:
 - 1. It shows an equality on one side with the other
 - 2. It also shows that our "members" are more or less neutral in the context
 - i. The "members" were presented for use by another power or controlling factor: "the old man"
 - a) Offered up to be used by sin for its purposes
 - 3. It shows we do not receive new "members" at conversion
 - i. The personality is not changed in conversion, the King is changed
 - a) It is this King that has made us all different and given us the "members" that we possess
 - b) We are not made identical naturally and neither are we to be spiritually
 - 1) Compare Saul of Tarsus with the Apostle Paul
 - 2) Matt 25:1-13- Parable of the Talents
 - 3) We are to use the things God gave us, not seek to change our personalities
 - (a) This has caused many Christians much anxiety
 - (b) A person is not a defective Christian because they are not like me in every way, vice-versa
 - (c) In God's creation, no 2 things are alike
 - (1) This becomes a testimony against the cults, as all a man can do is to clone identical things as a machine
 - 4. It shows that it is the "service" that is to be changed
 - i. Thus "yield" is seen in the way a man offers up himself for military service

III. Doctrine

A) This is a command, not an appeal

1. This is not a suggestion for a higher form of Christianity, or a 2nd work of grace
 - i. Because WE are commanded to DO IT, it is not “let go and let God”
 - a) In our old life, WE actively DID those things, we made choices based on our will
 - 1) Consider our past use of time, energy, money, thinking, etc.
 - 2) Consider the same now and let that be a red flag
 - ii. Because we are commanded, then it is entirely possible, God has enabled us

B) This is a command based upon what we already are and have

1. Paul is not telling us what’s possible if we reach next level, he is commanding us to do something based upon what we already are
 - i. Rom 6:18- Emancipated and then enslaved (no middle position)
 - ii. False teachings on sanctification pervert this doctrine:
 - a) “You fail every time because you are trying to do something, you need to simply let go and let God do it”- Keswick
 - b) “You must surrender all and experience the 2nd work of grace”- Keswick
 - 1) But a Christian is someone who has already had the “experience”
 - (a) Rom 6:2-5, 11, 14, 17-18
 - (b) Phil 2:12-13- Do it!
 - (c) 2 Pet 1:3-7- Do it!
 - (d) John 13:17- Happy are ye if ye do them!

C) This is the N/T method of sanctification always: a changed mind

1. The Christian is to realize his changed position and relationship to God, and then by means of this understanding, to act
2. The N/T never teaches Christ has been crucified for you, now you must be crucified with Christ
 - i. Rom 6:2-4- The Christian is already crucified and risen with Christ
 - ii. You cannot be a Christian without being crucified with Christ
 - a) Gal 2:20- I am crucified!

D) This is a perfectly reasonable command

1. If I have yielded this way before, then doing so again is not unreasonable
 - i. “You gave yourself fully to that, now do so to this”
 - ii. We were loyally obedient to sin, so why not to righteousness?
 - iii. Tit 2:14- Redeemed from iniquity and purified for Christ’s use
 - a) If I claim to belong to Christ, then live a life that is inconsistent with His commands, then that claim is illogical and unreasonable, and to be suspected (1 John 2:4)
 - 1) Consider a boxer eating Macdonalds every meal
2. Rom 12:2-3- Paul begins his practical section with exactly this argument

- i. So then this “as/even so” begins a great test for us of our profession
 - a) Sadly how often a life betrays a testimony, and all see it, but the one who is self-deceived
 - 1) Consider:
 - (a) How we spend our free time as Christians to how we spent it in the service of sin
 - (1) Compare our dedication
 - (b) A man doesn’t say, “well, I don’t have but this one day off work, so I think 2 hours of fishing is enough”
 - (1) But how many say 2 hours worship a week is enough
 - (c) We were never content with the minimum under the “as”, but we wanted to maximum time for our life’s joys
 - (1) We made great investments in the “as”, but paltry ones in the “even so”
 - (d) When the alarm went off to go hunting in the “as”, we leapt up with joy, no matter how tired, and kept at it all day
 - (1) But how quick will be declare we are too tired for bible study
 - (e) The business owner rises early and works through lunch to achieve his desire, then will go out to a dinner meeting or for drinks with a client that night, all to achieve his goals
 - (1) But this man says a night time bible study is unreasonable after such a long day

- E) Because this is a command, and failure lies on our part and never on God’s
 - 1. Our failures are always caused by not realizing and understanding who and what we are
 - i. “Royal children, royal manners”- Queen Elizabeth
 - 2. The key here is to realize what we were and how we served under sin
 - i. This robs us of the excuse that this new service is unreasonable
 - ii. Paul works this out in Rom 6:20-23

IV. The source of service

- A) Rom 6:19- were servants to “uncleanness and iniquity”
 - 1. Notice the order Paul puts these in
 - i. The action of sinning always starts with an unclean desire
 - ii. This is the way Satan deceived Eve into sinning
 - a) He implanted the unclean desire to “be like gods”
 - b) This led to the breaking of God’s law, or “iniquity”
 - c) Mark 7:20-23- The Lord Jesus Christ explained this fully
 - 2. “Iniquity unto iniquity”- The degrading nature of sin
 - i. Do it once, the 2nd time its easier, and continue till it’s your master
- B) Rom 6:19- “Righteousness unto holiness”- the ennobling nature of righteousness

1. The process is the same now for the Christian
 - i. Righteous desires and action lead unto a holy condition
 - a) Growing in righteousness