

How to Offer Yourself to God

International Bible Lesson

Romans 6:1-4, 12-14, 17-23

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“Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness” (Romans 6:13).

In Paul’s day and in subsequent generations some have thought that because Jesus Christ had died and God had forgiven them that they no longer needed to obey the law of God. They misunderstood Paul’s meaning when he wrote, “you are not under the law, but under grace” (Romans 6:14). The grace of God is the unmerited favor of God expressed through Jesus Christ, and God’s grace empowers Christians to obey God. The law of God is the objective moral law that commands everyone to love God and others, with consequences for obedience and disobedience. Paul wrote to Christians in his letter, “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Paul gave Christians good reasons when he commanded them to obey God and not offer any part of themselves to sin. Because of God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians receive the gift of eternal life; therefore, out of appreciation and love for God they should desire to obey God in everything rather than just because of the law. Paul commanded Christians to offer themselves to God and every part of themselves as instruments of righteousness. Paul wrote that one of the benefits of loving God and others is “holiness, and the result is eternal life” (Romans 6:22). God gives Christians eternal life as a free gift, and their eternal life is both the cause and consequence of their living holy for God.

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Thinking Further

1. What might you say to someone who said, “It does not matter what I do, God will always forgive me”?
2. What are some of the ways Paul made sin seem like a person?
3. Did Paul making sin seem like a person help you better understand sin and your responsibility as a Christian? Explain your answer.
4. What should be the result when Christians offer themselves to God?
5. What results when Christians offer themselves as slaves of righteousness?