

inside out

part one | obedience | **romans 6:17-18** | 01-16-10

“There are sensations of **unbounded independence** that are not true freedom because they deny truth and are **destined for calamity**. For example, two women may jump from an airplane and experience the thrilling freedom of free-falling. But there is a difference: one is encumbered by a parachute on her back and the other is free from this burden. Which person is most free? The one without the parachute **feels free**—even freer, since she does not feel the constraints of the parachute straps. But she is not truly free. She is in bondage to the force of gravity and to **the deception that all is well because she feels unencumbered**. This false sense of freedom is in fact bondage to calamity which is sure to happen after a **fleeting moment of pleasure**.”¹

“Conversion involves **an exchange of slaveries**.”²

¹ John Piper, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, 47.

² John Stott, *The Message of Romans*, 183.

“No middle ground is possible. One is either God’s slave or sin’s slave. Those who think that freedom is attained by jettisoning obedience to God opt for sin as their Lord.”³

obedience from the heart	good-kid syndrome
Desire to please God	Desire to please self
Desire to not sin	Desire to not get in trouble
Confesses sin	Caught in sin
Is sorry for sin	Is sorry for getting caught
Accepts consequences	Angry about consequences
Obedience is voluntary/internal	Obedience is imposed/external
Leads to eternal life	Leads to death

for discussion

- Romans 6:17-18 says that every person is a slave to one of two masters. What are the two masters? Which is your master? Why do you think that?
- Steve said that sin lies. What are some of the lies that sin tells? What lies are you tempted to believe?
- Have you experienced the exchange of slaveries? When did that happen?
- Go through each line of the chart together. Which column are you in more often? Give examples.
- Where is God calling you to obey from the heart?

³ Thomas Schreiner, *Romans*, 331.

