

Scripture: Romans 6:15 — 7:6

OPEN:

1. From your cultural and social history, what images and feelings do you associate with "slavery"?
2. What feelings and images do you associate with "marriage"?

DIG:

1. How is the question in vs 15 another attempt to misuse Paul's teaching on grace (see v 1)?
2. Whereas death was the image used in vv 1-14, what image does Paul use here? What is the "cost and benefit" of each kind of slavery? How does one become a "slave" to Christ?
3. From vs 19, how are we to live out our freedom from sin?
4. After "death and life" and "slavery and freedom," what new image is used in vv 7:1-6? How does this image help you understand your relationship with Christ?
5. What did the law actually produce in those who tried to live by it?

6. What would "fruits for death" look like compared to "fruit to God?"

REFLECT:

1. In your own spiritual life, when did you realize you did not have to be a slave to your old desires?
2. In which areas of your life do you feel trapped like a slave?
3. Do you feel more "married" to the living Christ who frees us, or to some religious code that reminds you of how you've failed?
4. In your life's vineyard, what would "fruit to God" look like compared with "fruit for death"?