

Romans: Living and Breathing the Gospel
Week 11: The Why of Obedience
Romans 6:15-7:6

1. What comes to your mind when you think of the word “obedience”? Does it have a positive or negative meaning for you? Why?
2. What is the difference between living “under the law” and “under grace”? How does each system address sin?
3. What does Paul teach us about our motivation for obeying the “standard of teaching to which you were committed”? What is the driving force of our obedience?
4. Paul invites us to look back on our lives when we were “slaves to sin” and asks, “What fruit were you getting at that time from the things to which you are now ashamed?” How would you answer his question?
5. Read Matthew 11:28-30 and James 1:12-15. What do both Jesus and his brother James have to say about our heart-level desires? What promise does Jesus offer? Why is following him, being “yoked” to him, “easier”? What burden are you freed from?
6. Paul offers freedom through “serving” in “the new way of the Spirit and not the old way of the written code.” What is the difference between these two different ways? Have you experienced this difference? How do you know?
7. Paul challenges us to consider our greatest attachments. We are all “slaves” to or “married to” something or someone. Think about each of the following attachments. Which one has the strongest pull on your heart? How do you know? What is the result?

Because I am attached to _____, _____ is happening in my life.

- Money
- Power
- Physical pleasure
- Family
- Security
- Your reputation
- Your appearance
- Pleasing others
- Something else _____

Take one the following next steps.

1. Spend some time with a Christian friend or family member and share what you've discovered. Ask for some honest feedback about your true attachments—"Where do you see this in me?" or "What patterns in my life do you see?"
2. Read Psalm 139. Be honest with yourself. Do you want to not want what you now want? Spend some extended time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to search your heart and change your desires.