



“Free to Offer Ourselves”

Romans 6:12–23, Matthew 10:40–42

June 28, 2026

Most people do not struggle with recognizing good things. The struggle is what happens to good things over time. Food becomes excess. Rest becomes laziness. Work becomes obsession. Freedom becomes self-indulgence. Even grace can quietly become something we cheapen and misuse. Human beings have a remarkable ability to exaggerate good things, cling to them, and slowly allow them to become masters over us.

In Romans 6, Paul addresses this very tension. After proclaiming that God’s grace is greater than sin, Paul recognizes the danger that people might misunderstand grace as permission to remain unchanged. “Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?” Paul answers with a firm no. Grace does not free us to remain under sin’s rule, but frees us to offer ourselves to God.

The dominant image in the passage is offering. Paul says, “Do not offer yourselves to sin,” but instead “offer yourselves to God.” Something is always shaping us. Fear, greed, resentment, self-protection, and excess continually attempt to reclaim authority over our lives. Sin is not merely isolated bad behavior; Paul describes it almost like a ruling power that seeks to master us. Yet through Christ’s death and resurrection, sin no longer has rightful ownership over those who belong to Christ.

Paul reminds believers that the Christian life begins not with the imperative, a command about what we should do, but with the indicative, a declaration of what God has already done. The deepest truth about us is no longer our sin, but our belonging to Christ. Grace comes first. Identity comes before action. Transformation is God’s work before it is ours.

The sermon concludes by grounding holiness in ordinary life through Jesus’ words in Matthew 10:40–42. Even a cup of cold water matters in the kingdom of God. Small acts of welcome, kindness, generosity, patience, and love become ways we slowly learn to live as people who are truly free, offering ourselves back to God little by little, by grace.