

# **Breaking Sin's Chain**

## **Romans 6:12-14 (NRSVue)**



CHAINS DON'T ALWAYS LOOK LIKE CHAINS. Sometimes they're a habit you can't shake, a word that slips out too fast, or a desire that keeps pulling you back.

The apostle Paul warns us. "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body" (Romans 6:12). Why? Because sin isn't just what you do—it's a dictator that wants to control you.

Today, we'll see how Christ breaks sin's chain and gives us freedom to live as God intends.

### **Resist Reigning Sin**

Paul wrote to the Roman Christians, "...do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires" (Romans 6:12).

Sin is a sneaky little devil. It gives you a pleasurable experience. The taste of well-aged wine. The smell of a sensuous perfume. The sight of a car's elegant lines. And sin twists the pleasure into captivity. It makes you want what your body enjoyed so much that you'll do whatever it takes to keep experiencing pleasure.

Paul gave wise advice. "...do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires" (Romans 6:12). Resist the reign of sin within your physical person.

### **Reject Sin's Instruments**

Paul wrote, "No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness" (Romans 6:13).

You, Christian, must reject sin's instruments, the subtle weapons it uses against you. Learn to use your body to live Christ's way.

Don't allow your body to be a tool of unrighteousness. Don't use your feet to go where you shouldn't be. Don't use your tongue to say what you shouldn't speak. Reject sin's instruments. Control your body's urges.

Present your physical person to God since he brought you from death to life. When sin rules, you lose, but Jesus died to rescue you from its grip. Give your physical person to him.

Allow your body to be an instrument of righteousness. Permit your heart to be moved by holy emotions. Tolerate only wholesome words and conversations to enter your ears. Your body is to be an instrument of right conduct. Use it for good, for justice, and for compassion.

Christ set you free. Don't hand the chains back to sin.

## **Reclaim Assured Victory**

As Paul wrote to Christians in Rome, "...sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:14). Law exposes sin, while grace enables right behavior. And even human standards show this.

Among people today, standards of conduct exist—they're laws—that you must follow. One example: *When you talk, use vulgar words*. That's almost a law for today's culture.

My grandfather worked in a factory and learned that if he wanted people to accept him, his words better be blue or purple. But my grandmother did not tolerate vulgarity. At home, he spoke one way; at work, another. The workplace "rules" dictated how he spoke there. And Grandma dictated at home.

The standard of grace is freedom. Your words don't have to be plaid or striped. If Jesus set your body free for living in right ways, then your tongue should become humane, comforting, hopeful, and sympathetic.

Reclaim the assured victory over sin you received in Jesus Christ. Use yourself for good.

THIS WEEK, TAKE INVENTORY OF YOUR BODY. Where are your eyes wandering? What words are on your tongue? How are your hands being used?

Don't try harder. *Surrender your body to Christ*. Ask him to replace what's harmful with what's holy, what tears down with what builds up.

Follow scripture's advice: Fix your eyes on Jesus. Guard your tongue—it can be a destructive fire. And whatever your hands do, do it in Jesus' name.

Do this, and you'll discover the truth: Sin no longer holds the chain. Grace does. But grace doesn't bind; it frees. In Christ, you're not a prisoner. You're free to be the kind, encouraging, useful person God created you to be.

**Amen**

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