**Sin’s Ascent to Dominion**

*Romans 6:12-14*

**Introduction**

1. The topic of sin is sorely misunderstood.
   1. Some say sin is innate – a part of our nature – through hereditary depravity.
   2. Some say we have to sin – misunderstanding of **Romans 3:23** – all have sinned, but none had to. (Jesus didn’t sin – was a man – ergo, man doesn’t have to sin.)
   3. Most think of sin in a mysterious way. (When sin is actually a violation of law – **1 John 3:4**) (It can be identified and understood.)
   4. Etc.
2. Paul exhorted his readers to avoid a return to sin, and maintain their penitence, and conversion to the Lord – **Romans 6:12-14**.
3. Sin once had dominion over them – *kyrieuō,* verb, to be lord over, rule over.
   1. Like a king.
   2. I.e. sin had them defeated and subdued.
   3. They were completely dominated by sin.
4. How does sin ascend to dominion within a man? Can it be explained? Can it be escaped? Can a return be avoided? How?
5. Where We Were
6. Under the Dominion of Sin
   1. Sold under sin – **Romans 7:14**
      1. Sold into slavery – under sin’s domination.
      2. “I am carnal” – how? – carnally minded – **8:5-6** – i.e. a mind for the flesh instead of spiritual matters.
   2. Pictured:
      1. **(v. 15)** – “For what I am (accomplishing), I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I (produce)”
         1. The state after being sold to sin – does not fully comprehend what is accomplished by sin, because (for) what he wills (desires because he knows it is good – in the law) to do, he does not do, and therefore produces what he hates. Why? Because he’s carnal, and sold under sin.
         2. He knew to follow the law was good, but chose not to do so – because dominated by carnal thought, or sin.
      2. **(vv. 16-17)** – sin does this. (Personified – submitted to out of free will – choice of sin) (He is in submission to sin as master.)
      3. **(vv. 18-20)** – nothing is inherently good in the flesh, or bad. However, the flesh has passions and urges that will lead to sin if followed without restraint, and due to the submission to sin, being under its captivity there is not the ability to produce good, so sin is reverted to again and again despite the desire to do better.
7. Under the Dominion of Death
   1. **Romans 7:24** – such a state under the dominion of sin is described as a body of death – under death’s dominion.
   2. Looking back for the Romans – **Romans 6:20-21, 23** – The end is death, wages = death.
8. How We Got There – **Romans 6:12-14**
9. Context – explaining why it would be wrong to continue in sin after becoming a Christian by God’s grace.
   1. In obedience to the gospel in baptism you died to sin.
   2. You were raised to a new life – a life free from sin – die in sin no more.
   3. To continue in sin would be to return to sin’s dominion – the text of verses 12-14.
   4. That return, he explains, is how they got there in the first place, i.e. what they had just escaped.
   5. Ergo, verses 12-14 describe how anyone becomes a slave to sin.
10. We Listened to Sin **(v. 12)**
    1. Sin reign? – again, personified – as ruler.
    2. Obey – *hypakouō*; to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively. (Strong)
       1. Then an implied heeding of such orders listened to.
       2. Starts with attentive listening.
    3. **Romans 7:7-8, 11** – sin speaking and deceiving the one who listens to it.
       1. Covetousness – not known to be wrong (sin) until the law condemned it.
       2. Now that there is knowledge of the sin, that desire is illicit – i.e. for what is against law.
       3. **(v. 11)** – Sin, however, deceives. (Consider Satan to Eve – you will not surely die.)
          1. **Romans 6:12** – obey (listen attentively) in its lusts (illicit desire).
          2. You listened to the desire you knew to be wrong.
       4. Sin was listened to, and such was the first step in its ascension to dominion.
    4. **Ephesians 4:26-27** – don’t give place to the devil.
       1. “Do not yield to the suggestions and temptations of Satan, who would take every opportunity to persuade you to cherish unkind and angry feelings, and to keep up a spirit of resentment among brethren.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
       2. Gave place (opportunity) by listening – Like Ananias – **Acts 5:3** – Satan filled his heart – he listened to Satan’s temptation.
11. We Presented Ourselves to Sin **(v. 13)**
    1. Present – *paristēmi*; lit., "to place near, set before," (para, "near," histemi, "to set"). (Vine)
       1. **Mark 4:29** – “has come” – was not near, but now has come.
       2. **Acts 1:3** – “presented Himself alive” – When Jesus was raised, He actively sought to be seen alive as resurrected.
       3. Sin spoke, you listened attentively, then put yourself out there in pursuit of what sin offered.
    2. Concerning a young man and a harlot – **Proverbs 7:6-9** – “he took the path to her house”
       1. He then heard her alluring speech.
       2. **Proverbs 7:21-27** – when he heard her he “went after her,” i.e. he presented himself to her – to his demise.
    3. **Romans 13:14** – make no provision.
    4. **2 Timothy 2:19, 22** – depart, flee!
12. We Were Enslaved to Sin **(v. 14)**
    1. When sin is listened to, then pursued it conquers and gains control, and dominion.
    2. Dominion – *kyrieuō*; to rule: — have dominion over, lord, be lord of, exercise lordship over. (Strong)
       1. From the root, *kyrios*, Lord – supreme in authority – **Luke 6:46** – Jesus as Lord. (The answer to Jesus’ question? HE IS NOT THEIR LORD, SIN IS – the master they obey.)
       2. Having complete control and say so.
       3. I.e. SIN IS IN CONTROL, AND IS DIRECTING YOUR LIFE.
    3. Often we fool ourselves with the idea that one sin will not cause a dominance of sin in our lives, but the text shows the danger of this thought.
       1. Sin is not some fleeting matter. When it is let in it seeks total dominance.
    4. **Romans 6:16** – present yourself to sin, you become sin’s slave.
       1. **Romans 7:14** – sold under sin – sell yourself to sin to be its slave.
    5. **Romans 6:19** – lawlessness leading to more lawlessness.
       1. This is how sin operates and gains dominion.
       2. When we sin, sin becomes easier, so sin compounds.
       3. It becomes habitual – **cf. 2 Peter 2:14** – cannot cease from sin.
    6. **Romans 7:21-24** – when sin has gained ascendency and is in control.
       1. **(v. 21)** – IN REGARD TO THE LAW – he wants to do good by following the law, but there is a present evil.
       2. **(v. 22)** – delights in the law – wants to do good.
       3. **(v. 23)** – another law (that of sin’s rule), subdues him in the thought of doing good to do evil instead.
       4. **(v. 24)** – end result is the captivity to death.
13. How We Escaped
14. We Listened to God **(v. 12)**
    1. **Romans 6:12** – do not listen to sin.
    2. Who do we listen to? – **Romans 7:7, 12, 14** – what does the law say?
       1. **Romans 8:5, 9** – set mind on things of the spirit, and let the HS dwell in you through the word.
15. We Presented Ourselves to God **(v. 13)**
    1. **Romans 6:13** – no longer present yourselves to unrighteousness, but to righteousness.
    2. Pursue the will of God! – **Romans 6:4, 11** – pursue the new life!
16. We Were Enslaved to God **(v. 14)**
    1. **Romans 6:14** – it shall NOT have dominion. God should!
    2. **Romans 6:16-19** – become a slave of God through obedience.
       1. **(v. 17)** – delivered to the doctrine as a slave – now the doctrine of Christ is your master (Christ is your master).
       2. (**v. 19)** – like sin compounds, becoming habitual, SO RIGHTEOUSNESS DOES.
    3. **Romans 6:22** – the end result is life eternal.
17. This is the same way to remain free, and avoid falling into sin again: always listen to God, always present self to His will, He will reign in dominion on the throne of our heart.

**Conclusion**

1. Sin’s ascent to dominion can be explained:
   1. A listening ear is lent to sin.
   2. A pursuit of sin is made.
   3. Sin is allowed in, takes advantage, and gains dominion.
2. Christians are those who have escaped the dominion of sin:
   1. We have listened to God.
   2. We have pursued the will of God.
   3. God was allowed in and has gained dominion.
3. We must beware lest we fall back into sin the same way. We avoid this by continuing in the other direction, and never giving sin a hearing ear.