**That Form of Doctrine to Which You Were Delivered**

*Romans 6:17*

**Introduction**

1. God created us all to have a relationship with Him, but all fall short of that when they sin – **Romans 3:23**
2. Rather than serving God, man has chosen to serve sin – a harsh slavedriver with no concern for our well-being.
3. In Christ, God offers a solution – redemption from that master of sin and Satan to be the possession of Christ who loves us and wants what is best for us.
4. Despite this reality, some chafe at the idea of being another’s slave.
5. Regardless, Paul noted the blessing for the Christian’s in Rome – **Romans 6:17**
6. Obedience from the Heart
7. Heart Absence was the Fault of the Typical Jew
	1. Being a true Jew was equated to the inner man – **Romans 2:28-29**
		1. An Israelite indeed – **John 1:47** – Jesus’ knowledge of Nathanael’s heart (**cf. John 2:25; Romans 8:27**).
		2. ***“truly an Israelite” (LSB)***
	2. The aim of the covenant was a relationship – **Exodus 19:4-6; 25:2, 8** – tabernacle central part of that relationship, God’s dwelling, erected through willing offerings from the heart.
	3. Blessing and curse dependent on faithfulness – **Leviticus 26:11-13, 14, 17, 40-42** – God to be with them, but if they don’t obey, He will be against them, they need to confess unfaithfulness, humble ***“uncircumcised hearts.”***
		1. **Cf. Romans 2:5** – hardness and impenitent heart = uncircumcised heart. (Context of **Leviticus 26** is these things that would lead to their repentance.)
	4. The generation to inhabit the land was reminded what God wanted – **Deuteronomy 6:4-5; 10:12-13, 16**
		1. **Cf. James 4:4-5** – the scripture shows God desires the entire self.
8. Heart Response is Standard for Those in Christ
	1. A turn of heart – **Luke 1:16-17** – work of John.
	2. Written on the heart – **Jeremiah 31:31-34** – New covenant
		1. Jesus to Nicodemus – **John 3:3-5** – not born into it naturally, but a chosen spiritual birth.
	3. Example of Lydia – **Acts 16:14** – heart opened through the preaching of the good news – ***“God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart” (Romans 6:17).***
9. The Context and Language
10. A Transition from One Master to Another
	1. You were slaves of sin – **Romans 6:16-17a**
		1. As slave to sin they were free from righteousness – **Romans 6:20-21**
		2. They served the law of sin with the flesh – **Romans 7:25** – i.e. the fleshly sphere of influence.
	2. Delivered to another – **Romans 6:17** – the ***“form of doctrine”*** was not that which was delivered, but what YOU were delivered to.
		1. You are the slave being delivered from one master (sin) to another (form of doctrine).
		2. **Romans 6:18** – now you are free from sin and a slave of righteousness.
11. The Slavish Relationship is with the Person of Christ
	1. ***“that form of doctrine to which you were delivered”*** is ultimately Jesus Christ Himself, in His example, and all the authority He wields.
	2. Following context – **Romans 7:4-6** – demonstrated by the marriage bond.
		1. Needing separation from the Law **(v. 4)** because under its dominion you are also under sin’s dominion **(v. 5).**
		2. In being released form the law by death you are married to another **(v. 4)** and now serve Him **(v. 6).**
		3. This regards a relationship restored with God through Christ.
	3. Preceding context – **Romans 5:18-19** – Adam followed then Christ followed.
		1. Adam is spoken of as a ***“type”*** of Christ **(v. 14)** – His single act of sin (the first) opened the door to sin and death for all, and it began to reign through him.
		2. Christ’s single act of obedience on the cross opened the door to life and righteousness **(v. 18).**
		3. The effects of both are carried over through following in their steps – **(v. 12)** – ***“because all sinned”*** – **(v. 14)** – even if not in same likeness.
			1. Christ is author of salvation for all who obey – **Hebrews 5:8-9**
			2. We follow His faith – **Hebrews 12:1-2** – ***“author”*** – *archēgos* – “a chief leader” (STRONG)
			3. We join in His death and resurrection – **Romans 6:3-4**
			4. Christ becomes a ***“type,”*** or pattern for us to follow – ***“form of doctrine”*** – *typon didachēs*
	4. Language – ***“that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”***
		1. NOTE: Paul does not expressly state it, but slavery to sin is truly slavery to Satan through sin – **cf. John 8:34,44; 2 Timothy 2:26** – a person is involved.
		2. ***“to which”*** – Pronoun, Relative, Accusative, Singular, Masculine – this form is most often with a personal reference, i.e. ***“TO WHOM”***
			1. *“But thanks be to God, that when you were slaves of sin you gave your obedience from the heart to the one to whom you were handed over as a pattern of teaching.”* (Dunn, James, translation in WBC)
		3. ***“form of doctrine”*** – *typon didachēs –* ***“pattern of teaching”*** *– Typon often used in reference to a person, especially in Paul’s writing.*
			1. **Philippians 3:17** – ***“you have us for a pattern (typon)”***
			2. **1 Thessalonians 1:7** – ***“you became examples (typous)”***
			3. **2 Thessalonians 3:9** – ***“ourselves an example (typon) of how you should follow us.”***
			4. **1 Timothy 4:12** – ***“be an example (typos) to the believers”***
		4. This is as Paul stated in another epistle – **Galatians 2:20** – ultimately, he died to the law and sin with Christ by obeying Him and became Christ’s bondservant who followed Him as a pattern – thus, Christ lives in him.
			1. This is obedience ***“from the heart,”*** and is activity of a relationship, not simply outward, rote, superficial identification.
12. Jesus Christ – That Form of Doctrine to Whom You Were Delivered
13. A Pattern of Obedient Faith
	1. **Philippians 2:12-13** – we are called to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.
		1. Followed by warning, using language impossible not to connect to Israelite history – **(vv. 14-15)** – **cf. 1 Corinthians 10:10-11** – ***“examples”*** (*typoi*)
	2. The exhortation stems from the example of Christ – **Philippians 2:5-11**
		1. **(v. 5)** – having the mind of Christ – **(vv. 3-4)** – humble estimation of self, and service of others.
			1. This is linked with service to God.
			2. Christ’s death was not merely as a response to our need, but God’s will.
		2. **(v. 8)** – He was obedient unto death.
		3. **(vv. 9-11)** – in His exaltation He becomes the One all are to obey – His commands and direction being embodied in His life.
			1. **cf. 1 Peter 2:21-25** – His actions, His example of faithfulness, His authority, our submission.
			2. ***“example”*** – *hypogrammon* – “lit., “an under-writing” (from *hupographo*, “to write under, to trace letters” for copying by scholars); hence, “a writing-copy, an example,”” (VINE)
	3. **Romans 12:1-2** – A living sacrifice in response to the ***“mercies of God.”***
14. A Pattern of Holiness
	1. **John 17:14-19** – Jesus’ prayer for the apostles includes the fact of His own sanctification in the world.
		1. **(vv. 16, 18)** – He was is not of the world, but sent into the world by His Father.
		2. **(v. 19a)** – He sanctified Himself – ultimately looking immediately to the cross, but broadly true of His entire ministry.
		3. The example of which tool to use – **(v. 17)** – the truth (**cf. Matthew 4:4** etc. – ***“it is written”)***
		4. Two ideas in *hagiason* ***(“sanctify”):***
			1. ***“I am not of the world”* (v. 14)** – negative – i.e. His home is elsewhere, reflected in His will, emotion, longing, etc.
			2. ***“You sent Me into the world”* (v. 18)** – positive – i.e. sent by God on a mission, consecration.
			3. A pattern for us – “THEY are not of the world” **(v. 14);** ***“I also have sent THEM into the world”*** **(v. 18)**
	2. **1 John 1:1, 5; 2:3-6, 29** – what He declared of God in His life by word and deed was that God was supremely holy, and we must follow His example of such in righteousness.
	3. **Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:26-28** – we come to Him as our High Priest, not only when we fail, but before we fail in our temptations to be strengthened by His leadership and example.
	4. **Romans 7:4, 6** – we die with Him and are raised with Him to bear fruit to God in newness of spirit consecrated to the service of God.
15. A Pattern by His Word
	1. ***“that form of doctrine to which you were delivered”*** (a thing, the gospel message) = ***“the one to whom you were handed over as a pattern of teaching”*** (a person, Christ)
		1. Jesus is the word – **John 1:1**
		2. He lives in us – **Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27**
		3. He lives in us through His word – **Colossians 2:6-7; 3:16**
	2. **Hebrews 1:1-2; 2:1-4** – the word of the Sno through which God speaks once and for all today is that which is spoken through the inspired apostles and prophets.
	3. **Matthew 7:21-29** – His word is the pattern on which to build our lives to stand right before God in judgment, as He has been given all authority.

**Conclusion**

1. Rather than being slaves of sin, God has rescued us in Christ and made us slaves of righteousness in delivering us over to ***“that form of doctrine.”***
2. ***“That form of doctrine”*** is not simply the gospel of Christ but is Christ Himself as the pattern of our obedience.
3. Christ is our Master, and we are His slave – we must live before Him accordingly, imitating Him daily, and always looking to His word for guidance.