

Lent Day 14

Thursday March 16, 2017

Reading: [Romans 6:1-14](#)

Reflection

Have you heard of Stockholm syndrome? It's when you've been conditioned to have feelings of trust or affection by a victim toward a captor. Can you imagine the level of damage that would take? A person who is liberated wanting to return to their confinement because they feel an affection for their captor. It's a pretty sad state.

Paul imagines that someone might suffer from this syndrome in it's spiritual sense. If grace super abounds where sin abounds, then shouldn't sin go on so grace can go on? To put it in simpler terms, if God's good is a result of our bad, then shouldn't we keep the bad going? But that's not even quite it — it's not just about what we do, but where we live. "We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" Live in it — the question is shouldn't I go back to my old captor?

No says Paul. That's twisted thinking. Now that you have been liberated from Sin it is ridiculous to go back and try to live there again. It's even more ridiculous to think that you can experience more liberty by going back to captivity than you can from staying in liberation. He says, don't leave freedom to go back to captivity to try to enjoy freedom — that's crazy.

More precisely, that's the old life kind of thinking. That is the thinking that is left back in the realm of sin, but that's not where we live anymore. We live in Christ now which means a new way of thinking — new life thinking. This new life thinking says we have died to sin, but live to God in Christ, so we do not need to live life under that old realm or captivity.

This lent there will be moments when we are tempted to say what does it matter if I go on sinning? After all, God has forgiven me in Christ. If I keep sinning I will just receive more grace. That may be true, but it's also quite sad. In fact, because God has forgiven us in Christ, we are now free to no longer go on sinning, but we can live for Christ. We can live as free people rather than people in captivity and knowing this may make all the difference for embracing our freedom.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the freedom you have given to us. Help us to hold on to that freedom and to live in it and out of it. Keep us from going back to our former captivity and living as if we were still captives when you have made us free. Amen.