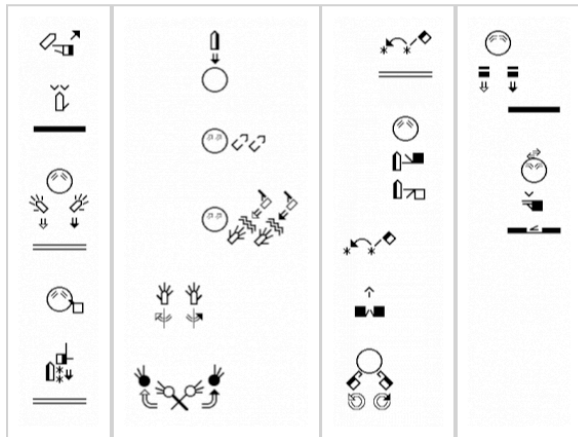


SERVANTS OF SIN OR SERVANTS OF OBEDIENCE

Some people are still seeking employment, a job, and someone to work for. They work for wages, but how many people look for a boss or master, someone to serve? Ultimately, that is the only choice we have: who or what shall we serve. Our freedom in Christ allows us this choice. Recently, I had asked someone if they wanted a new job. It had great benefits and pay. That person never inquired further about this opportunity. They chose to keep their old master. They will never know what they gave up.

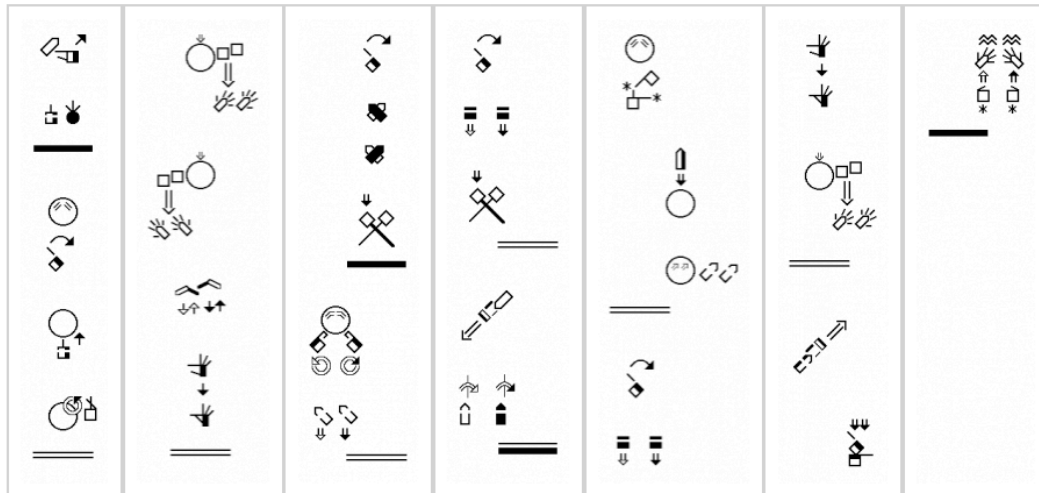
This is the same regarding Jesus Christ. People have been serving Sin all of their lives; they did not like what sin had done to them so Jesus redeemed them just like President Lincoln had freed the slaves, but some have not chosen to let Jesus be their new master.

Romans 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.



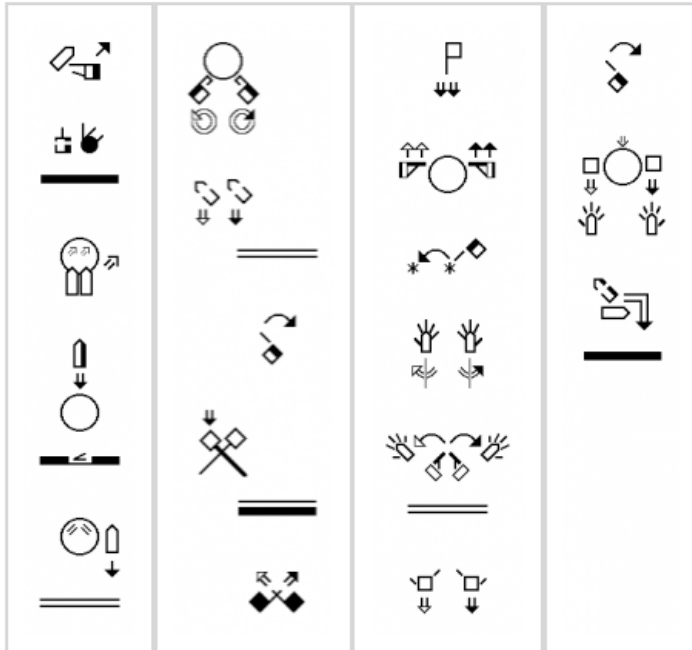
If you had been a slave all of your life and someone bought your freedom would you serve your redeemer or go back to your old master?

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?



Most of us do not realize we are choosing to serve something or someone. We think we are serving ourselves. After I joined the Marine Corp it was not long before I realized I had given up my freedom. I now belonged to the U.S. Government. Friends serving Sin will kill you. If we choose Sin we are choosing a return to slavery.

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

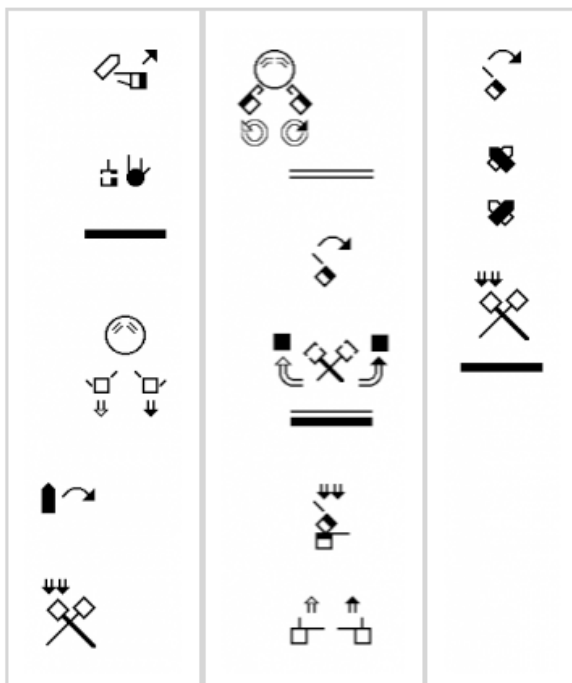


“**from the heart**” Here Paul contrasts our old life with our new life. To understand his point we need to realize he is writing about a doctrine to obey and believe, and not about a particular righteous act to do.

The question becomes what does Paul mean by “**that form of doctrine**”?

I call it “The New Master Doctrine” because Jesus never taught, as other famous teachers do, to follow principles but to follow Him. (**Mat. 16:24**) Christ never calls us to live separate from His life. (**John 15:1-8**)

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.



Think of “**righteousness**” as meaning Jesus Christ. Being then made free from “**sin, our old master**” we become servants of “**Jesus Christ.**” Like airplanes that the “wind” lifts, the Spirit of God enables us to defy “gravity” sin. We can live victorious lives.

Remember friends, deeper discipleship is not like shopping, picking what we like and not putting into our lives the things we don’t like, but it is like falling in love. (Ill. My girlfriend never required me to visit her every day; I wanted to because I loved her.) Most people only think of 1 Corinthians 13 as only relating to human relationships but “**love**” is the grace of God moving out of changed hearts.

God is a God of relationships and not rules; rules are for relationships and not vice versa. I’ve got a long way to go but pleasing my wife makes me happy just like pleasing God is what I love to do.

What are you going to do with your freedom? Will you allow Jesus to be your master?