

LEAVING MY PRETEND WORLD
Loosening Your Grip VI
Romans 6:1-14

INTRODUCTION

- A. While growing up, would pretend to be Johnny Unitas.
 - 1. Could complete every pass thrown, most for TDs.
 - 2. Never played on a team, was water boy for the peewees.
- B. Pretending of childhood becomes masquerade in adult life.
 - 1. A person within a person, a face within a face.
 - 2. Pretend to be what we're not; what you see is not always what you get.
- C. Two fundamental kinds of spiritual pretend exists.
 - 1. We pretend to be alive, when we really aren't.
 - 2. We pretend our allegiance to God.

I. PRETENDING TO BE ALIVE.

- A. Words Associated with Death, Rom. 6.
 - 1. The word "death" [or form of] occurs 18 times in Romans 6.
 - 2. Death has three different meanings in these 23 verses.
 - a. It refers to the death of Jesus, vs. 3.
 - b. Death describes our status if we reject God, v. 23.
 - c. Death represents our exit from the pretend world into the real world, v. 6.
- B. Our Pretending to Beat Sin.
 - 1. Spiritual whopper, "being good, *depends on me.*"
 - 2. Our dreams far exceed our abilities.
- C. "Death," an Exit from the Pretend World.
 - 1. Romans 6:2, "Death to sin."
 - a. Dying to sin is admitting we need God's help.
 - b. Don't become suddenly better on our own, God creates good in us.
 - 2. Death to an old way of thinking and living, vss. 6, 13.

II. RESCUED FROM DEATH, IN TWO DRAMAS.

- A. The Visible Drama of Baptism.
 - 1. We act out Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.
 - 2. Die to pretend world, buried in watery grave, rise with new life, v. 4.
 - 3. A transformation from our pretend world to reality.
- B. The Invisible Drama for a Heavenly Audience.
 - 1. Involves a marionette and its master.
 - a. We are the marionette being controlled by sin.
 - b. We are enslaved to sin, v. 16.
 - 2. When we give up our pretend world, an amazing thing happens, v. 14.
 - a. The role of the marionette and master is reversed.
 - b. In control of sin through the power of the cross, Rom. 6:6.
 - 3. Concerning authenticity of death in Christ:
 - a. Do I live and act like I've been made alive, or do I live and act like I'm still dead?

- b. Do I speak like a person who has been set free, or do I talk like a slave?
- c. Do I have the joyful look of an acquitted person, or do I wear a look of guilt?
- d. Do I have the freedom of someone ransomed, or do I still act like I'm kidnapped?
- e. Do I live as if Christ did the work for me, or am I still trying to work my way into grace?
- f. Do I understand that He was sacrificed for me, or do I live in fear of the executioner?

III. OUR SPIRITUAL MASQUERADE.

- A. Pretending to Yield.
 - 1. After being baptized not giving up the pretend world.
 - 2. We are still the marionette with sin in control.
 - 3. Baptized more to please the crowds, not God.
 - 4. Refusing to face our own sin; trying to maintain control.
- B. Transformed into an Instrument of Righteousness.
 - 1. Rom. 6:13, "We are no longer to submit to sin..."
 - 2. Rom. 6:10-11, We die to sin, but NOT yield to God?
 - 3. We need to yield to God.
 - a. God calls us to yield, v. 13, 19.
 - b. He makes me an instrument of righteousness.
 - i. A weapon for good, not for sin.
 - ii. A tool for God's use, not the use of Satan.

IV. LIVING IN A DREAM WORLD.

- A. I Can Make Life What I Want it to Be.
 - 1. But I can't make life what I want it to be, Rom. 3:23.
 - 2. Harder we try to control, more confused it becomes.
 - 3. Pretending to be when not prevents us from yielding.
 - 4. Pretending allows to set aside role as instruments for God.
- B. Emerging into Reality.
 - 1. Yielding to God, makes me a different person.
 - 2. I cannot continue in the way I once lived, Rom. 6:1-2.