

Sin will not be your master. Law does not rule you. God's grace has set you free.

—Romans 6:14 NIV

Consider reading
Romans
6:12-14

The Rev. Joe Baumgarten, Alaska

Some children like to catch things that live in the wild. They like to catch butterflies, fireflies, frogs, and even spiders. The problem is that when those creatures are put in jars or containers, they don't live very long. It's not where they belong. When wild animals are kept in cages or jars, they don't like it. Most wild animals enjoy having space to run, fly, or swim around. In other words, wild animals like to be free.

As God's people, we like to be free, too. We are not wild and God doesn't keep us in cages. But the bad things we do, which we call sin, can keep us from being free. Sin can feel like a cage sometimes. Our bad feelings and guilt keep us from enjoying our lives. They trap us; they make us feel as if we can't move or get away from evil. Our sin can even hurt other people.

- ***Have you ever felt bad about something you said or did?***
- ***How do you think other people felt about what you did?***
- ***Did you say you were sorry for what you did?***
- ***If so, how did it feel when you said you were sorry?***

God sent his Son, Jesus, to earth because God knew how bad sin was. God knew we felt caged in by our sin. He knew only his love could open up our cage of sin and set us free. God sent Jesus to live, die, and rise from death so we could be free and forgiven.

- ***How do you think a new puppy feels when he can run around outside?***
- ***How does it feel when you are forgiven and free from sin?***
- ***How does it feel to know God loves you enough to set you free from sin?***

God says we don't have to worry anymore. We can live, run, play, sing, dance, and enjoy the life he has given us. We are a forgiven people. God's free gift of love is for all of us to enjoy. We may have sinned one million times, but each time God opens the cage of sin and forgives us. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven and set free.

PRAYER

Dear gracious God, sometimes we feel sad because of the bad things we say or do. Forgive us when we do these things. Tell us again how much you love us. Help us live life and enjoy the gifts you give us, especially the gift of forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.