

# “Challenges To Righteous Living”

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Text: Romans 6:1,2

Theme: To encourage God's people to faithful righteous living.

## Introduction:

1. Magic Johnson -
  - a. He carries a deadly virus - Aids.
  - b. But he also carries a deadly message -
    - 1) “Safe sex.”
    - 2) A code phrase for promiscuity.
  - c. And he has become a national hero.  
(Mention letter home from Amanda's school)
2. What can we do?

## Discussion:

- I. We cherish our freedom.
  - A. As Americans.
    1. Like Elsa the lioness we are “born free.”
    2. We don't like anybody, including the government, to tell us what to do.
    3. We don't like someone “preaching to us.”
    4. We want to be like the birds of the air; free to go or stay, free to fly or perch, where we want, when we want.
  - B. Though we believe that we are “free,” this freedom is nonetheless limited.
    1. No man or beast is totally free.
      - a. The animals may not have to write term papers for school or have to worry about

- money problems or political oppression, but they are controlled by the environment, the food supply, predators, etc.
  - b. Americans have laws to obey that control and restrict our freedom, etc.
  - C. Even Christians are “free.”
    - 1. John 8:32.
    - 2. But not to live anyway we please Romans 14:1,2; 1 John 2:1.
  - D. So, it is not a question of IF our lives will be controlled, but BY whom or BY what.
    - 1. Romans 14:16.
    - 2. Either sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness.
- II. The world has chosen the way of sin.
- A. The ways of unrighteous living totally permeate the culture of our people.
  - B. It is being boldly promoted upon us [Cinemax - “Sin To The Max.”]
    - 1. Virtually no TV shows are fit to watch anymore; they are full of illicit sex, violence and profanity.
    - 2. It seems that the great majority of songs that we hear on the radio promote rebellion, drug usage, “free love,” etc.
    - 3. The homosexual community is definitely *out of the closet*, and they almost dare you to challenge them.
  - C. It is a great threat to the Lord’s church.
    - 1. The general “Christian” community is greatly struggling with these matters now.
      - a. The sexual report of the Presbyterians.
      - b. Many are ordaining homosexuals clergy.

2. It has effected the Lord's church.
  - a. Is anyone prepared to say that we have not become more unrighteous - esp. in this century?
  - b. Where is the preacher today that stands against "mixed swimming"?
  - c. Where is the elder that will instruct young people not to go to school dances?
  - d. Where are the church leaders who will condemn the social use of alcohol and tobacco?
  - e. Where is the Bible class teacher that will instruct the young people not to engage in sexual behavior outside of marriage?

III. None of this is new.

- A. It affected the church in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.
- B. And it greatly affects us now.

### **Conclusion:**

1. We must stand up and be counted among the righteous.
2. Psalm 1.

### **Invitation:**