

Romans 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Analysis

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin—mēde paristanete ta melē hymōn hopla adikias tē hamartia (μηδὲ παριστάνετε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν ὅπλα ἀδικίας τῇ ἁμαρτίᾳ). Present imperative again: stop presenting or don't start. Paristanete (παριστάνετε, yield, present, offer) was used of presenting sacrifices or soldiers presenting themselves for duty. Hopla (ὅπλα, weapons, instruments, tools) indicates body parts as instruments for either sin or righteousness. Adikias (ἀδικίας, unrighteousness) contrasts with righteousness—moral categories, not just ritual.

But yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead—the aorist imperative parastēsate (παραστήσατε, yield, present) suggests decisive action: once-for-all consecration of oneself to God. **As those that are alive from the dead** (hōsei ek nekrōn zōntas, ὡσεὶ ἐκ νεκρῶν ζώντας)—hōsei (as if, as it were) doesn't imply unreality but true status. **And your members as instruments of righteousness unto God** (kai ta melē hymōn hopla dikaiosynēs tō theō)—the same body parts formerly used for sin must now be actively presented for righteous purposes. This is the positive counterpart to v. 12's negative command.

Historical Context

The language of 'presenting members' echoed both military (soldiers presenting weapons/bodies for service) and cultic (priests presenting sacrifices) contexts. Roman soldiers took oaths of loyalty, presenting themselves for duty unto death. Paul transforms this: believers present their bodies as 'living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1). The contrast between serving sin vs. God was stark in Roman society's moral landscape, where sexual immorality, violence, and dishonesty were normalized. Christians' ethical distinctiveness—presenting bodies for righteousness—was countercultural witness.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What specific 'members' (eyes, hands, tongue, etc.) do you need to stop presenting to sin as instruments of unrighteousness?
2. How can you decisively present yourself to God 'as alive from the dead' in practical, daily consecration?
3. In what ways can your body parts become 'instruments of righteousness'—actively used for God's purposes rather than merely avoiding sin?

Interlinear Text

μηδὲ	παραστήσατε	τὰ	μέλη	ὑμῶν	ὅπλα	
Neither	yield	G3588	members	your	as instruments	
G3366	G3936		G3196	G5216	G3696	
ἀδικίας	τῇ	ἀμαρτία	ἀλλὰ	παραστήσατε	ἑαυτοὺς	
of unrighteousness	G3588	unto sin	but	yield	yourselves	
G93		G266	G235	G3936	G1438	
τῷ	θεῷ	ὡς	ἐκ	νεκρῶν	ζῶντας	καὶ τὰ μέλη
G3588	unto God	as	from	the dead	those that are alive	and G3588 members
	G2316	G5613	G1537	G3498	G2198	G2532 G3196
ὑμῶν	ὅπλα	δικαιοσύνης	τῷ	θεῷ		
your	as instruments	of righteousness	G3588	unto God		
G5216	G3696	G1343		G2316		

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:1 (References God): I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 6:16 (Righteousness): 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?

1 Peter 2:24 (Righteousness): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Colossians 3:5 (Parallel theme): Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Romans 7:5 (Sin): For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

1 Peter 4:2 (References God): That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Colossians 2:13 (Sin): And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

1 Corinthians 6:20 (References God): For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 John 1:9 (Righteousness): If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 Corinthians 6:15 (References God): Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.