Dear Open Door Family,

Many years ago a comedian made the phrase *"the Devil made me do it"* famous. On his TV show anytime he was caught doing something wrong he would say *"the Devil made me do it."* The statement was meant to convey the idea that "it is not my fault" or "I can't help it." Too many times today I have heard Christians speak in ways that make me wonder if they think the same thing. Anytime that we give the impression that we cannot help ourselves or that it is inevitable that we will fall into sin, we are buying into that same kind of thinking. Let's look at these verses together.

Romans 6:11-14 *(HCS) So, you too CONSIDER yourselves* ***DEAD*** *to sin but* ***ALIVE*** *to* ***God*** *IN Christ Jesus. [12] Therefore do* ***NOT let sin REIGN*** *in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. [13] And* ***do not OFFER*** *any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead****, OFFER YOURSELVES to God****, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. [14] For sin will not* ***RULE*** *over you, because you are not under law but under grace.*

Paul clearly tells us what God expects of us. In vs. 11 and 14 we are told that sin is NOT supposed to Reign or Rule over us. We should not bow to sin and allow sins to have dominion or the ability to RULE over us. Along with that Paul goes on to say in vs. 13 that we should NOT offer any part of ourselves as an instrument or weapon of godlessness and sin. Paul then goes on to tell us how we are to do this. In vs. 11 We are told to CONSIDER or Look on ourselves as DEAD to sin. How does something that is DEAD respond? It does NOT, it cannot, dead things do not respond. That is how we are to respond when sin comes knocking at the door. Dead things do NOT get up and answer the door. In the same way we are NOT to respond to the prompting and seduction of sin. We are to turn away from it; we are to act dead to it and remember that it has no power over us. If we do not do this then we will allow sin to RULE in our lives where Christ is supposed to Reign. Another part of this is that we are to OFFER ourselves - put ourselves in God's hands as instruments or weapons for good. Weapons that are used FOR righteousness. The word for Weapons can also be translated Instruments. The point is that God is the one who uses us for His purposes. To destroy evil would require a weapon to bring healing would require an instrument. It is God who chooses how He will use us. It is always however, for good and for righteous purposes. I am NOT to offer myself to sin, rather I am to OFFER myself, ALL of my being, to God for His use, for His purposes. I present myself to Him so that He can use me as a weapon or instrument of what is right and good. So for me to act like or talk like sin is inevitable, that I just cannot help myself, is contrary to what is being said here. I have a choice, I can choose to let sin reign in me - I can choose to offer myself to wickedness and evil by the things I think, say and do. Or, I can ask for God's help and Grace to live as I should. I can Offer Myself DAILY to God to be used by Him in whatever way He chooses.

PRAYER: Lord God, help me. Do NOT let me give in to sin and its appeal in my life. Help me to turn away from it and offer myself to YOU for Your use and service. Lord, help me act like I am DEAD to sin. Lord, may I be an instrument or weapon in your hands for good. Please God, use me.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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