

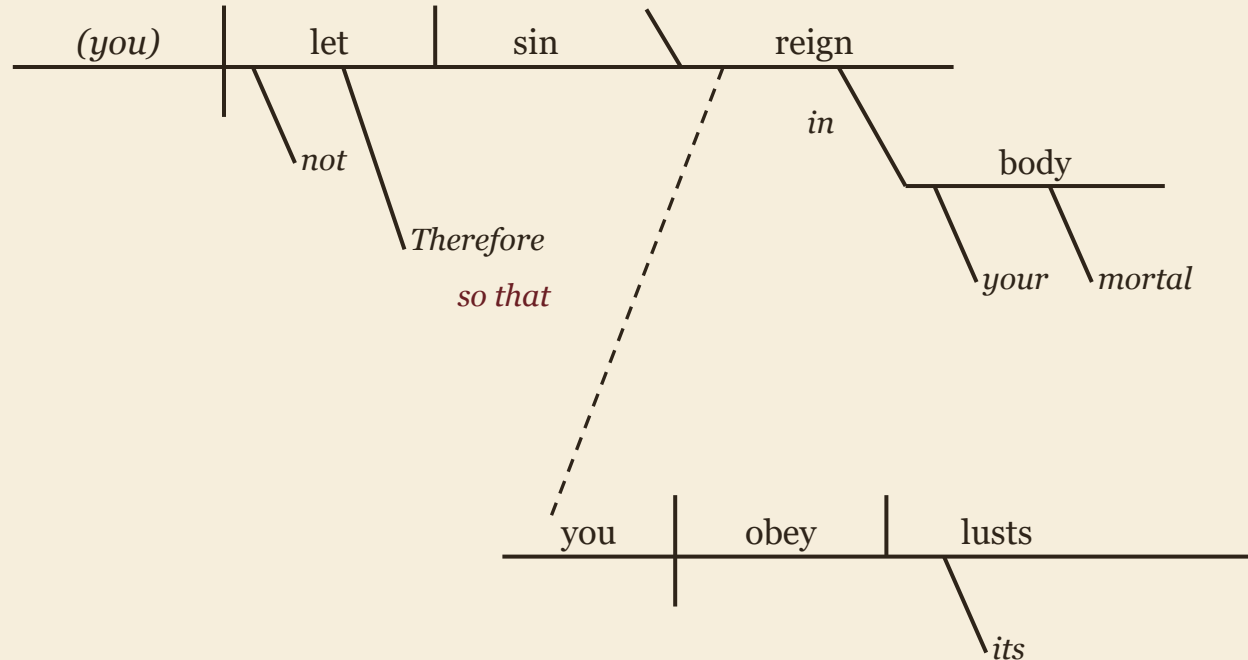
Romans 6:12–13 (NASB 1995)

A Reed-Kellogg Sentence Diagram With Notes

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update

Verse 12 — “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body...”



Reading the diagram

Imperative — the subject (you) is understood.

let | sin \ reign — “sin” is the direct object; “reign” is the objective complement (bare infinitive).

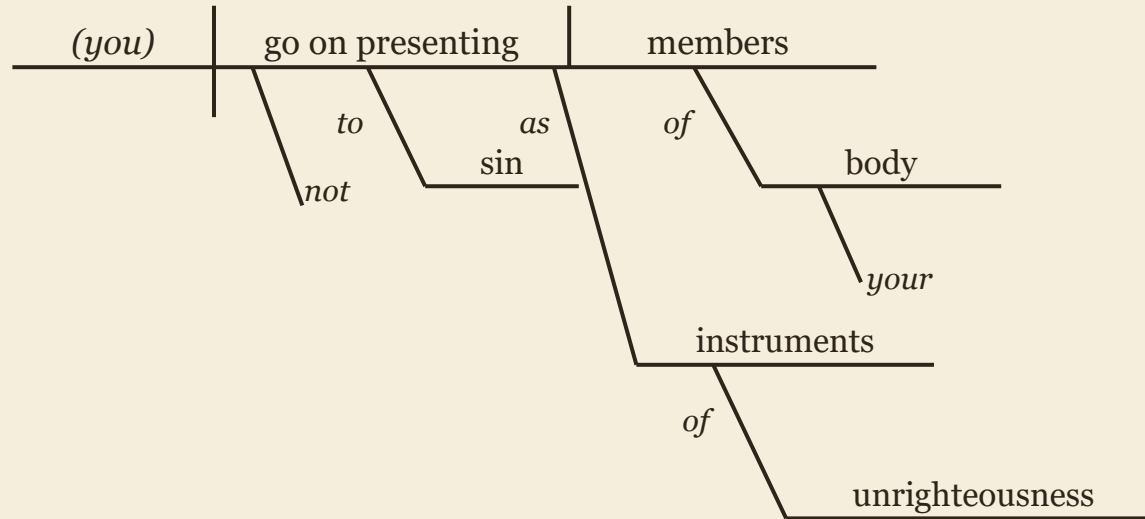
“Therefore” and “not” are adverbs modifying “let.”

“in your mortal body” modifies “reign.”

The dashed line carries the subordinate adverb clause of result/purpose, “so that you obey its lusts.”

Verse 13a — The Negative Command

and (joins verse 12 — same understood subject)



Reading the diagram

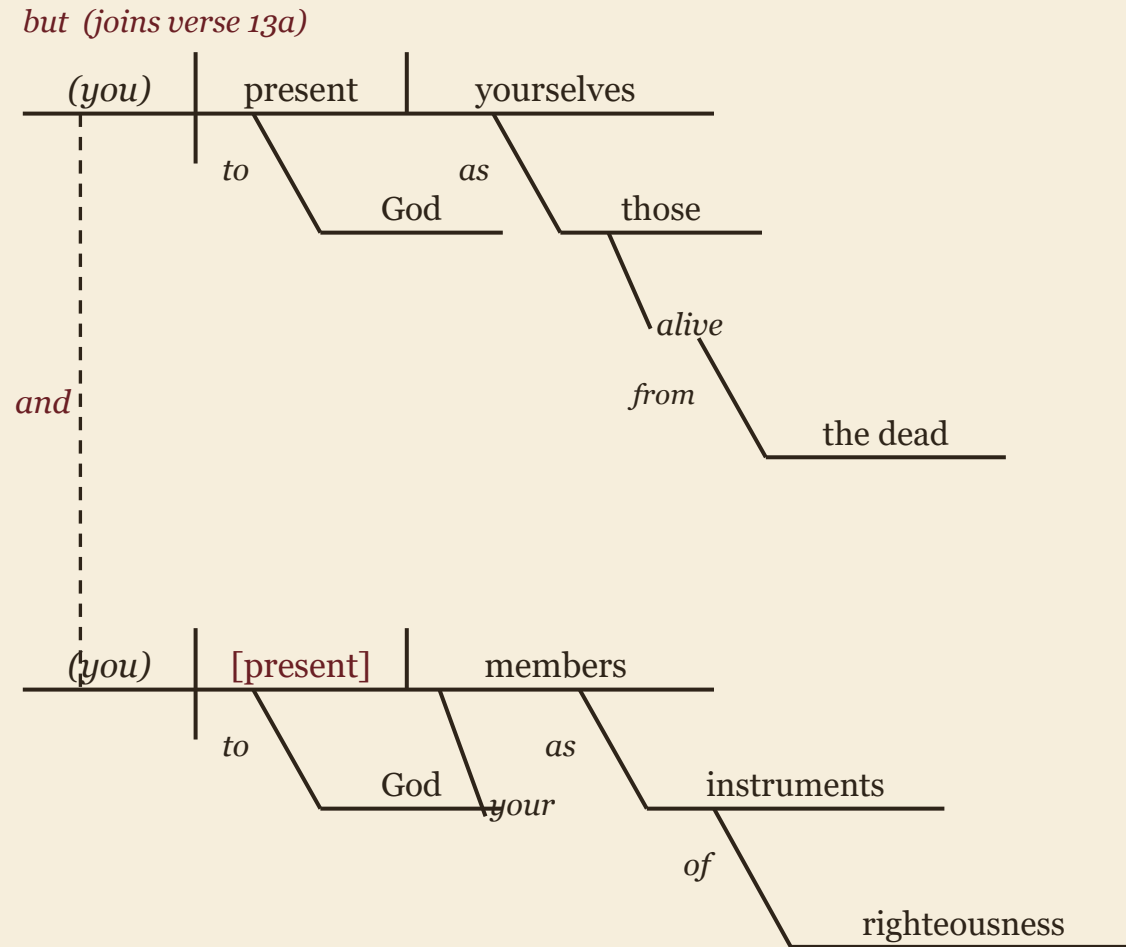
A second coordinate imperative, joined to verse 12 by “and.” “go on presenting” carries the continuous force of the Greek present imperative with the negative — stop an action already in progress.

“members” is the direct object; “of your body” modifies it.

“to sin” and “as instruments of unrighteousness” are adverbial prepositional phrases modifying the verb.

Greek *hopla* (“instruments”) is a military word — weapons or armor.

Verse 13b–c — The Positive Command



Reading the diagram

Two coordinate imperatives. The first is joined to verse 13a by the strong adversative “but”; the second is joined to it by “and.”

“yourselves” is the direct object of “present”; “to God” and “as those alive from the dead” modify the verb.

“alive” modifies “those”; “from the dead” modifies “alive.”

The final clause is elliptical — the verb “present” is understood and is shown in brackets.

“your members” is the understood direct object, with “as instruments of righteousness” and “to God” modifying the understood verb.

Clauses and Phrases

CLAUSES

1. “(you) do not let sin reign in your mortal body” — independent clause, negative imperative (v. 12).
2. “so that you obey its lusts” — subordinate adverb clause of result, modifying “reign” (v. 12).
3. “and (you) do not go on presenting the members of your body...” — coordinate independent clause, negative imperative (v. 13a).
4. “but (you) present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead” — coordinate independent clause, positive imperative (v. 13b).
5. “and (present) your members as instruments of righteousness to God” — coordinate elliptical clause; verb understood (v. 13c).

Connectives: Therefore (inferential, looking back to vv. 1–11) · so that (result) · and · but (adversative).

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

“in your mortal body” — adverbial, modifies “reign.”

“of your body” — adjectival, modifies “members.”

“to sin” — adverbial, modifies “go on presenting.”

“as instruments of unrighteousness” — adverbial, with “of unrighteousness” modifying “instruments.”

“to God” (twice) — adverbial, modifies “present.”

“as those alive from the dead” — adverbial, with “from the dead” modifying “alive.”

“as instruments of righteousness” — adverbial, with “of righteousness” modifying “instruments.”

VERB PHRASES

“do not let ... reign” · “do not go on presenting” · “present” · “[present]” (elliptical).

Commentary — Charles C. Ryrie

Ryrie Study Bible / Basic Theology · precise, dispensational, doctrinally framed

A dethroned king — Sin is no longer the believer's master, but it is still resident. The command assumes sin will try to reign; the believer's responsibility is to refuse it the throne.

“Mortal body” — Ryrie stresses that the body is still subject to death and remains the arena where sin makes its appeal. Redemption of the body is future (Rom. 8:23); its right use is present.

The logic of chapter 6 — Verses 12–13 rest on the reckoning of verse 11. Knowing (v. 6) and reckoning (v. 11) must issue in yielding (v. 13); the order is doctrine before duty.

“Instruments” = weapons — The Greek hopla is military. The members of the body are armament placed at the disposal of one commander or the other — there is no neutral ground.

Two tenses, two demands — Stop the habitual surrender to sin; make a decisive, definite presentation of yourself to God as one already raised from the dead.

Summary of Dr. Ryrie's published notes and theological treatment of Romans 6; paraphrased, not quoted.

Commentary — David Jeremiah

Turning Point · pastoral and applicational, built on clear outlines

Sin is a defeated tyrant — Jeremiah pictures sin as a deposed ruler still issuing orders. It has no authority over the believer unless the believer grants it — the throne of the life is surrendered, never seized.

Know, reckon, yield — He traces the chapter's three commands: know what happened at the cross, count it true of yourself, then hand yourself over to God. Verses 12–13 are the third step, where truth becomes practice.

The body is neutral — Eyes, hands, tongue, and mind become what they are given to. The same members that served unrighteousness can serve righteousness the moment they are re-presented.

A daily act — The presentation is decisive but also renewed each morning; obedience is a series of concrete surrenders, not one distant experience.

Grace as motive — Because the believer is alive from the dead, obedience is the natural response of gratitude rather than an attempt to earn standing.

Summary of Dr. Jeremiah's teaching emphases on Romans 6; paraphrased, not quoted.

Commentary — J. Vernon McGee

Thru the Bible · plain-spoken, verse-by-verse, richly illustrated

“Don't let it reign” — McGee notes that sin is spoken of as a monarch. The old nature is still present after salvation; the believer is simply told not to take orders from it any longer.

Yield is the key word — He calls yielding the pivotal word of Romans 6. The Christian life is not self-improvement but a handing over of oneself to a new Master.

Resurrected people in mortal bodies — Believers are alive from the dead while still living in bodies headed for the grave — which is exactly why the command is needed.

Arming one side or the other — The members are weapons. Whatever a believer does with his hands, feet, and tongue today is ordnance issued either to sin or to God.

Obedience, not sinlessness — McGee is careful to say the passage does not teach that sin is eradicated; it teaches that sin need not be obeyed.

Summary of Dr. McGee's verse-by-verse emphases on Romans 6; paraphrased, not quoted.

Commentary — Skip Heitzig

Connect with Skip Heitzig · expository, word-study driven, application-minded

Sin reigns only by permission — Heitzig emphasizes that the imperative is addressed to the believer, not to sin. The command would be pointless if the outcome were not genuinely in the Christian's hands.

Battlefield vocabulary — He highlights hopla — weapons of war. Romans 6 describes a contested field in which the believer's body is the equipment being requisitioned by two rival commanders.

Stop doing what you're doing — The present imperative with a negative means “quit the practice.” The text confronts an ongoing habit rather than an isolated failure.

Position becomes practice — The doctrine of union with Christ in verses 1–11 is not theory; verses 12–13 are where positional truth is cashed out in daily conduct.

A decisive handover — Presenting oneself to God is pictured as a soldier reporting for duty — a definite act with continuing consequences.

Summary of Pastor Heitzig's expository emphases on Romans 6; paraphrased, not quoted.