

How Do We Then Live?

Week 6 - Romans 7:7-25

? What is something you love that many people hate/dislike?

Objectives:

- The law exposes our sin but fails to free us from sin.
- Although we struggle with sin, there can be present victory over sin through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

In this section, Paul breaks down the relationship between the law and sin and discusses the inner struggle with sin in the life of a Christian. Even though we will continue to struggle with sin, we can thank God for the ultimate deliverance he has given us through Jesus Christ.

Is the Law Sinful?

Romans 7:7-12 NIV

⁷ What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.⁹ Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.¹⁰ I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

? Based on how Paul has spoken about it thus far in Romans, we could get the impression that the law is bad. Why does Paul say the law is good?

Possible answers: Sin and the law clearly show us that our death is deserved. This makes it clear to us that only the death of our blameless God could save us.

? What is the relationship between the law and sin?

Possible answers: Sin has used the law to bring death. It is the culprit. The law is not sinful in itself. This idea is also alluded to in Romans 4:15, 5:13, 5:20, and 7:5.

? What is our relationship to the law? How are the demands of the law met?

Possible answers: Only through the death of the blameless Son of God are the demands of the law paid for. This passage displays our clear hopelessness so that we can cling to the hope offered through Jesus.

Deliverance from our Sinful Nature through Jesus

This passage dives into the battle all humans face. We are justified, yet we still struggle with sin. We face a daily challenge to fight the desires of our flesh and pursue sanctification.

Romans 7:13-25 NIV

¹³ Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.



What point is Paul trying to make about the law in verse 13?

Possible answers: Paul is pointing out that even though the law is "holy, righteous, and good", people are not.



How would you summarize Paul's main message in this section?

Possible answers: Paul is discussing the constant struggle Christians face between their sinful flesh and being sanctified. We will always need to battle sin, but we have experienced full forgiveness through Christ. It's the "already but not yet" concept once again.



Where does this leave us as Christians living in this tension outlined in this passage?

Possible answers: We will always struggle with sin. Jesus' death and resurrection has paid the price for our sin. We are forgiven, God looks at us and does not see our sin as a result of Jesus' saving work. We can look forward to being reunited with Christ.

For Discussion and Accountability

- ? What was God telling you through this passage this week? What did you need to hear?

- ? How do you need to battle your sinful flesh this week? How can we come alongside you in this?