



COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**Romans 7:7-21: The Struggle is Real**  
**Pastor Randy Brainard**

*For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. (Romans 7:5)*

How are sinful passions aroused by the law? By God's commandments?

Do not go into room #134!  
You must color for one hour!

**Romans 7:7-10**

Define coveting:

The law reveals sin as SIN...

- which takes a work of God to convince us about.
- and it springs our hearts to rebel (like room 134).

**Romans 7:11-13**

The law reveals to me that I am an utter sinful mess...

- ...in need of saving.

**Romans 7:14-20**

I know what is good, but I struggle in myself to do it. God has truly started a good work in me, but I sense another part of me that wakes war.

**σαρκός**

## Romans 7:21-25

The law brings me to the end of myself. I cannot do it without Jesus!

Think of the most holy and righteous and mature Christian you know. They are probably one of the humblest people you know – or at least they should be. They do not think highly of themselves, but think God is so gracious. They do not talk about how awesome they are, but how awesome God is.

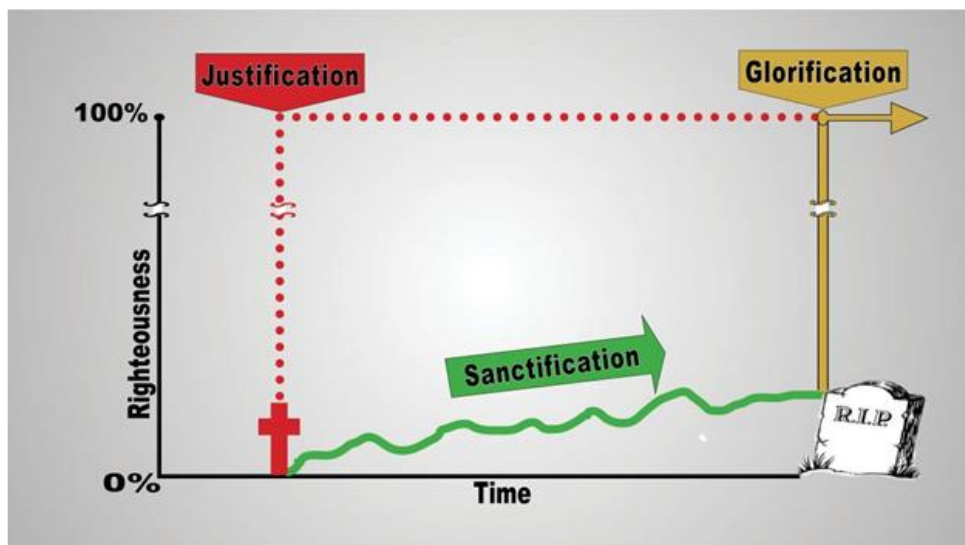
What a wretched man I am!

Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

*Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*  
(Romans 7:24-25)

*“What is sanctification? Is it an awareness of how good we are becoming? Or is it a growing sense of how sinful we really are, so we will constantly turn to and depend upon Jesus Christ? If we are mature in Christ, we know it is the latter.”*

*(James Montgomery Boice)*



## So, what do we do?

1. Never quit battling against sin!

*Ephesians 6:10–12: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

The weapons are God’s Word, the church, fellowship, prayer, worship...

2. Keep pressing forward.

*Philippians 3:12–14: “... I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

The battle remains, just keep trying to obey the Lord a little more than before, receive His grace and move forward.

3. Keep running until the race is finished; then, we may rest from the warfare.

*Hebrews 12:1–4: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.”*