

**Romans 7:1-12**  
**For the week of February 12, 2023**

**Reflection**

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

In this section of Romans, he tells us more clearly than anywhere else how he found the law so inadequate as a way to secure a righteous standing before God. He has hinted at it before: 'through the law comes knowledge of sin' (3:20)—not only the objective recognition of sin as any breach of the law, but perhaps also the awareness of sin within. More than that: Paul could never forget that the sin of sins in his own life—his persecution of the church—was directly stimulated by his devotion to the law (Gal. 1:13–14; Phil. 3:6a). In his experience freedom from sin and freedom from law went closely together. If in chapter 6 he has illustrated freedom from sin in terms of the relation between a slave and his master, now in 7:1–6 he illustrates freedom from law in terms of the relation between a wife and her husband.<sup>1</sup>

The law does not cause sin; it exposes and condemns it. And the law does not cause death; sin does.<sup>2</sup>

Our real problem is not the law, but sin. It is indwelling sin which accounts for the weakness of the law... The law cannot save us because we cannot keep it, and we cannot keep it because of indwelling sin.<sup>3</sup>

**Observation** (vs. 1-3)

3. Summarize these verses.

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<sup>1</sup> F. F. Bruce, [\*Romans: An Introduction and Commentary\*](#), vol. 6, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 147–148.

<sup>2</sup> John R. W. Stott, [\*The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World\*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 204.

<sup>3</sup> John R. W. Stott, [\*The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World\*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 204–205.

**Interpretation**

4. This is the third illustration Paul uses (1. Realm of Sin and Grace 6:1-14, 2. Slavery 6:15-23, 3. Marriage 7: 1-3). Why do you think he continues to reiterate his point with these various illustrations?

**Application**

5. How does the illustration of marriage impact your walk with Christ? (Eph. 5:32, Rev. 19:6-9)

**Observation** (vs. 4-6)

6. What is Paul saying in these verses?

**Interpretation**

7. What does it mean "you also have died to the law"?

8. How do you interpret "new way of the Spirit"?

**Application**

9. How do you "bear fruit for God"?

**Observation** (vs. 7-12)

10. Write these verses in your own words.

### **Interpretation**

11. Note: "What shall we say"? An intentional phrase used by Paul in Romans 4:1, 6:1, 7:7, 8:31, 9:14, and 9:30. Take a moment to read these and note any similarities and/or differences.

12. "That the law is sin? By no means!". Parallel this statement with Romans 6:1-2 and 6:15. Is it the same or different? Why or why not?

13. Why do you think Paul adds his personal testimony in these verses?

### **Application**

14. Do you identify with Paul's struggle? Why or why not?