

Romans: The Power of the Gospel (The Gospel Transforms)
The Solution for the Frustration – March 14, 2017
Romans 8:1-17

What we learn from Romans 7

The law without the Spirit...

Identifies our sin (Rom 7:7) *"I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law"*

Simulates our sin (Rom 7:8-9) *"...but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life..."*

Condemns our sin (Rom 7:13) *"...in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death,"*

Our problem:

The "Knower" and "Doer" Problem:

I am often overwhelmed by sinful desires that are **enhanced** by the law.

The two bad religious options:

1. **Abasement**

Col 2:21 *"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"*? **22** *These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23* *Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.*

2. **Abandonment.**

Romans 6:1 *What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?*

The real solution: death and resurrection in Christ and the Spirit living within for **Active dependency.**

First: an attitude of real humility and gratitude.

Romans 7:24-25 *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!*

Second: realize the new way is not abasement or abandonment--rather, it is empowerment.

Romans 8:1-4 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the **law was powerless to do** because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who **do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.***

Third: We add to our humility and gratitude a new mindset.

Romans 8:5-11 *Those who live according to the flesh **have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.** 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ...*

Colossians 3:1-4 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

Fourth: With God's grace and power, we starve our bad behavior and feed our good behavior.

Romans 8:12-18 *Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the **Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body**, you will live. 14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

Col 3:5 *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry... 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, ...**12** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other*