

In View of God's Mercy  
Romans 7

Let's remember what we have seen so far...

- The power of God for salvation is for everyone who trusts in Jesus
- God's wrath is his holy hostility against unrighteousness – all people have sinned
- That sin is an exchange – the truth about God for a lie; the glory of God for something less
- All people – both Jewish / non-Jewish followers of Jesus are made righteous through faith in Jesus
- Living by faith is being fully convinced that God is able to do what He has promised to do
- We are justified, declared eternally right with God by grace through faith in Christ
- Being justified by faith in Christ - we have peace with God
- Being justified we have access to him by faith
- Being justified, we have a standing in grace
- When we suffer with a surrendered heart, we will see purpose in the pain
- We know God loves us – because he shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us
- We have been redeemed to walk in newness of life
- We must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus
- We should not offer up our life to sin, but instead present ourselves to God, as those brought from death to life
- We used to be slaves to sin – but now there is an obedience from the heart
- We have been set free from sin and now are slaves to righteousness

Dead in sin. Under the weight of sin. Held captive by sin. Responsible for the punishment and penalty of sin.

Dead to sin. Under the weight of glory. Now captivated by God. Released from the penalty of sin. Made right with God.

By grace. Through faith. In Jesus. Newness of life. New power to obey. New identity.

**Released from the Law**

*7 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? <sup>2</sup> For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. <sup>3</sup> Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.*

*<sup>4</sup> Likewise, my brothers, you also have **died to the law** through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. <sup>5</sup> For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. <sup>6</sup> But **now we are released from the law**, having died to that which held us captive, so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit** and not in the old way of the written code.*

Died to the law – so that you may: belong to one another (one new humanity in Christ) and so that you may belong to him (Jesus - the one who has been raised from the dead).

This – is so that we may bear fruit for God.

The law awakens / arouses our sinful passions. We know this to be true.

Now we are released from the law. Instead of an external obedience to a set of standards – we now serve in the new way of the Spirit.

### **The Law and Sin**

*<sup>7</sup> What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."<sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.<sup>9</sup> I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died.<sup>10</sup> The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.<sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.<sup>12</sup> So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

The law is good. The law is holy. The law is righteous... because the Law Giver is good. The Law Giver is Holy. The Law Giver is righteous. The Law Giver is God.

The law helps us see the goodness of God – and helps us see how sinful we are.

Sin seizes opportunity through the law and produces in us desires contrary to the law, contrary to the goodness of God.

Without the standard of what is right and good – sin lies dead. But there is a standard of what is right and good because there is moral law and the Mosaic law, but beyond that – there is God who is the eternally perfect standard of ALL that is right and good and holy and just and pure – and though made in His image and likeness, we are not like Him.

He can know good and evil. He does.

We now know good and evil (thank you Adam and Eve)

God knows good and evil – and always does what is right and good.

Humanity knows good and evil... and well, we all know how that goes.

We are not God.

This is why – while we were still sinners, Christ had to die.

This is why God alone can rescue us.

This is why we are to trust in His unfailing love.

This is why having peace with God must be on his terms.

This is why reconciliation with God is through Christ and Christ alone.

This is why something needs to die within us and something must desperately be made new.

This is why the gospel is good news.

The law is holy and righteous and good – because God is.

RC Sproul says it this way, “the revelatory character of God’s law is a mirror by which we see not only the glory and radiance of God’s perfection but also ourselves, warts and all. The law is not sin, but the law makes known to us our sin. We will not come to the gospel or beg for the mercy of God until the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and the instrument that the Spirit uses to bring us to the cross is the revelation of the law.”

People in comparison to the standard of all that is right and good simply cannot keep the law. Not for long. Not forever. Name one person you know that hasn't struggled with sin. There's only one name who hasn't given in to sin and all its twisted demands. Jesus.

*<sup>13</sup> Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.*

Sin shown to be sin.

*<sup>14</sup> For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*

I do not understand my own actions.

I do not do what I want.

I do the very thing I hate.

*<sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. <sup>17</sup> So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

When we sin – when I sin - when you sin – and when we see again, remember again, choose to repent again, we see again – we see the law is good because God is good.

When I sin – it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Sin lives in me but sin is not me.

Understanding this is critical to your life on earth, in a broken world, surrounded by sinful people, all affected by sin, in a world that is increasingly sinful.

*<sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*

In my flesh, on my own – I do not have the ability to do what is right.

*<sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*

In my flesh, on my own, the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

*<sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

In my flesh, on my own the sin that dwells within me – will keep on deceiving me.

In my flesh, on my own the sin that dwells within me - will continue to direct me, tempt me, distract me, allure me, suggest things to me, lie to me, burden me, and make my life about me.

In my flesh, on my own, I still have a problem.

Sin dwells within me and all of me has been affected by sin.

My mind, affected by sin. My will, affected by sin. My emotions, affected by sin. My desires, affected by sin. My body, affected by sin. My perspective, affected by sin. All of me, affected by sin.

All the world around me affected by sin.

*<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.*

When I want to do what is right - evil lies close at hand.

This is why walking in forgiveness with other Christians is so difficult. Evil lies close at hand.

This is why loving one another can sometimes be incredibly painful. Evil lies close at hand.

This is why Christian men and women struggle with impurity and self control. Evil lies close at hand.

This is why followers of Christ struggle with jealousy and manipulation. Evil lies close at hand.

This is why followers of Christ are tempted towards idolatry and passivity. Evil lies close at hand.

*<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Ro 7:1–25)*

WHO will save me? WHO will deliver me? WHO will rescue me? WHO will redeem me? WHO will die for me? WHO will pay for me? WHO will be punished for me? WHO will be crushed for my sin and iniquities? WHO will suffer for me? WHO will be crucified for me? WHO will take on my shame?

Jesus. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus you saved me, delivered me, rescued me, redeemed me, died for me, paid for me, punished for me, crushed for me, suffered for me, crucified for me – thanks be to God, thanks be to God through Jesus Christ.

I myself - the real me, the new creation in Christ me, the adopted and redeemed me – I serve the law of God, I love the law of God, I truly desire to walk in obedience to God, I myself – I love God.

I've been given a new heart – the one of stone, removed.

I once was spiritually dead – my spirit was DEAD. Not any more.

I didn't choose God. I was dead. He chose me. He made me alive.

I am spiritually alive to God by the power of God and the choosing of God by the plan of God for the purposes of God – all made possible by the love of God in the cross of Christ.

Something is NEW and ETERNAL. I have been born again.

But with my flesh, the old me, I serve the law of sin.

Mark of maturity in faith? Understanding what has been made new and understanding what still lies within.

***6** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

*<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We*

*know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

(Ro 6:1–14)

Evil lies close. Jesus is closer.

Evil is real. Jesus is better.

Sin that lives in me is real, but Jesus is stronger.

Sin that dwells within — I have been set from from its dominion.

I live with Christ. Christ lives in me.

I died with Christ. Christ died for me.

I must consider myself - dead to sin, dead to sin, dead to sin, dead to sin.

I am not under the law, I'm released from the law and now live under grace.

I am alive to God in Christ Jesus. I stand in grace and thus see the law is good.

In our flesh, on our own, we will sin every single time. But we are not on our own anymore.

Not if we trust in Jesus, NO, we are not alone.

We in fact can say no to sin and yes to God.

When we find that we are conflicted, and once again facing that reality of doing what we don't want to do or not having the ability to do the good we want to do — this is the moment, the very present invitation to walk by the power of the Holy Spirit,

In temptation, this is the moment to remember we live to God, by Christ's power and because we have peace with God, this is the moment to discover Jesus is better and stronger than sin... this is the joy of grace-enabled obedience, this is when we discover the pleasure of pursuing God's holiness.

And if in these moments, in the "why did I do this again" moments, on the morning after, or in the "why did I choose sin again" moments... why — here's why.

You didn't count yourself dead to sin, you didn't remember that walking in newness of life was better, sin deceived you, you believed a lie, you exchanged the glory and goodness of God for something less.

In Jesus's name - sin does NOT have dominion over you.

It's in you. It's around you. Sin does NOT have dominion over you.

Jesus does. This is what it means for Jesus to be Lord.

When you fail — and when I fail — there's only one way home.

Who will save you? Jesus.

Who will save me? Jesus.

In view of God's mercy, Jesus — our plea — increasingly rule and reign in us for the glory of your name.