

Take Away – Unlocking the Kingdom: Do You Like What You See?

Text: Romans: 7: 7 – 14

Date: 10-16-22



With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

1. A quote from the sermon is: "There two different types of laws - human laws and God's Law. Human laws are fulfilled by what is done or not done. But God's Law judges according to what is in the depths of the heart. God's Law looks not only to the outward action but to the heart." Expand, reflect, and share some personal experiences with these truths from Scripture.
2. Be honest. When you hear the word "Law" what are your initial reactions and thoughts? Are they positive, negative, or neutral? Share your thoughts.
Answers vary. Be prepared with your own answer as appropriate.
3. In Romans 7: 7 – 14, how does Paul show that the law and sin are not identical? How are they related?
The law shows us our sin and what perfection is to be like.
4. How does these passages show that you do not attain holy living by trying to keep rules?
We cannot become perfect on our own we need God to rescue and save us.
5. Does Paul say anything negative about the law? Why or why not? Explain and discuss.
No, he does not. He explains the holy and important role that the law plays in our salvation through the need of a savior Who God has provided.
6. Can you think of an example where you didn't want to do something until it was forbidden? Do you think it was bad to forbid it?
Answers vary. Be prepared with your own answer as appropriate.
7. In Verse 13 tells us that the law does not bring death, but simply reveals sin which brings death. In light of this, is it still better to have the law compared to sinning apart from the law? Why or why not?
We need the law so that we are aware of our shortcomings and can recognize the situation we find ourselves in. Also, after not rejecting Jesus' saving work we know what God would have us do and be.
8. The Christian life should be different based on the law being a mirror in having humility, a need for the Gospel, and need for community. Discuss why each should be our reaction.

Humility: Paul's use of the personal pronoun - "I". This isn't an others issue. This is a me issue. The problem isn't the world, a government, a president, etc. The Law says we found the enemy and it's me.

Need for the Gospel: You should have a high view of who you are because you are created in God's image. Self-esteem flows from the Gospel. "I was worth dying for." Self-esteem should not flow from what we do (how amazing we are)...but from the One who gives our lives meaning and value. (Possible connection - God likes what He sees when He looks at you. Not because you are perfect but but He is.)

Community: Our greatest super power is asking for help - both from God and others. Radical Dependence. But we don't ask for help. We need to serve and be served.

9. Let's discuss confession and absolution:

- a. Do you personally believe it is hardest for most people to confess/admit sin to themselves, to God, or to others? Why? What can be some of the reasons for not more readily confessing?
- b. What's the difference between the way a Christian should work through regret using confession and absolution and the way someone who doesn't know Christ might work through it?