Encounter Church

Sermon Notes

September 27, 2026 — Pastor John Vernon

ENCOUNTER CHURCH

The Trouble is With Me

Romans 7:14–25

Slide 1 — Romans 7:14–25

14 So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. 15 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. 16 But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. 17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. 18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 20 But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. 21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God's law with all my heart. 23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Slide 2 — Romans 7:14

14 So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good…

Slide 3 — Romans 7:10–13

10 …So I discovered that the law’s commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. 11 Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me… 12 But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. 13 …So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God’s good commands for its own evil purposes.

Slide 4 — Romans 7:14

14 …The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.

Slide 5 — 1 Corinthians 15:9

9 For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I’m not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God’s church.

Slide 6 — Ephesians 3:8

8 Though I am the least deserving of all God’s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.

Slide 7 — 1 Timothy 1:15

15 This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.

Slide 8

The more fully Paul saw God’s holiness the more he recognized and grieved over his own sinfulness.

Slide 9 — Galatians 5:17

17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

Slide 10 — Romans 7:18

18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.

Slide 11 — Romans 7:15–21

15 I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate. 16 But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. 17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. 18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 20 But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. 21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.

Slide 12 — 1 John 1:10

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

Slide 13 — Romans 7:14

14 …The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.

Slide 14 — 1 John 1:8–9

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Slide 15 — Philippians 3:12–14

12 I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Slide 16 — Romans 7:22–23

22 I love God’s law with all my heart. 23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

Slide 17 — Psalms 119:47

47 How I delight in your commands! How I love them!

Slide 18 — Psalm 119:140

140 Your promises have been thoroughly tested; that is why I love them so much.

Slide 19 — 2 Corinthians 4:16

16 …Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.

Slide 20 — Ephesians 3:16

16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

Slide 21 — Romans 7:24–25

24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Slide 22 — Romans 7:25

25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Slide 23 — Romans 8:23

23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

Slide 24 — 2 Corinthians 5:4

4 While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it’s not that we

want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.

Slide 25

It’s about the impossibility of living in loving obedience apart from God’s grace.

Slide 26

“No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good.”
— C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Slide 27

“Even though you are enlightened as to the spiritual character of the Law of God, it is not enough. Knowledge alone can never solve this problem, it has already failed to do so. What man needs is not knowledge; it is power.”
— Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Slide 28 — Galatians 5:16–17

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

Slide 29

May we realize our need to acknowledge the grace of God and the deep, deep love He has for us.

May we realize our need to abide in Christ, relying on the power of His Holy Spirit within us.