

Romans 7

Main Idea: The purpose of the Law is to identify sin. Period! It cannot make anyone righteous before God.

Series – Romans

We are winding down a series of messages entitled "Greatest Hits." The book of Romans may not seem like an Easter book to you but everything that happened on Thursday to Sunday is explained in great detail by Paul in Romans. In reaction to the Resurrection, Christianity was growing by leaps and bounds, but they needed answers. While the first five books of the New Testament tell the story of Jesus, Romans examines the message of Jesus.

I Don't Get It

I don't get it! Why is there so much controversy surrounding the rules in our churches? Why do so few churches agree on the rules? Why is there such inconsistency in following the rules? Why do the rules matter so much when nobody can agree on which rules are most important, and which are negotiable?

The Law Saves No One!

The Law is powerless to save anyone. Religious obligations and expectations cannot save anyone from sin. They cannot guarantee anyone heaven when they die because the Law cannot make anyone righteous.

- This is BIG! Any contribution you could possibly make to the process of "saving you" *can and likely will* be bettered by someone else. That's why the Law is powerless to save. So what good is the Law? What good are the expectations we put on ourselves and on others? That is the subject of *Romans 7*.

Romans 7

In *Romans 7* Paul says that being covered by God's grace means that we are "*released from*" the Law (v.6). If our faith in Christ is authentic, we died to sin (that's repentance). Sin is not our master. In addition, we are released from the expectations the Law places upon us. We no longer evaluate our position before God using the rules as our standard. We are free from both Sin AND the Law.

What Good is the Law?

The Law is good for identifying the rules and the rule breakers. That's it. The Law reveals to me that I am a sinner (rule-breaker). Jesus met God's righteous requirements for us because "*we do not live according to the sinful nature, but according to the Spirit*" (8:4). Rule-centric Christianity is frustrating! When you try to be like Jesus you fail every time! Paul says it's not about being "like" Jesus. It's about being "covered by" Jesus – under grace.

Family Night Big idea – Read Romans 7:7-25

- Elementary School – Ask, "Is God's Law sinful (v.7)? Is God's Law spiritual (v.14)? Am I spiritual (v.14)? Are you capable of keeping every single rule? Who makes us spiritual, the rules or Jesus?"
- Middle/ High School – Ask, "How does the Law reveal that I am a sinner? Why can't we keep every rule? What is 'grace'? If rules are not as important as grace, why do so many religious people focus so heavily on the rules?"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father thank you for your grace. We don't deserve it. We want to follow Jesus. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: We will meet this Wednesday, May 7th.

Gravity: Today in both services.

Baby Dedication

May 11 is Baby Dedication Sunday. If you would like to participate, sign up in the lobby. The 9:30 service is full but the 11:00 service has room. Take an information sheet home with you.

Please Consider Serving at GCC

Summer Camp "Ohana"

Registration is online now for current Pre-K through 2nd graders. Camp is June 9-13 from 9am – Noon. Register by May 18th if your child wants a T-Shirt.

GCC 101

Our next membership class is Sunday, June 29th. If you are interested in membership, Class is after the 11:00 service in the Community Room. A light lunch is served, and childcare can be provided if you let us know. Sign up in the lobby.