

SCRIPTURE: Romans 7:1-12 TITLE: "Alive in the Gospel"

Intro: "Aiight Fam..." Introduction phrase. "I'ma say somethin' important and I'ma need y'all to listen"
Transition phrase. "check this out. Hear this. Listen to this. Don't forget about this."

Conclusion: "I'ma go. Peace. I'm out. See yall. Be safe." Family. Friends. Like-minded. Sense of Unity. That's what Paul is emphasizing in this passage. You'll see the word "Brothers" or "Brothers & Sisters" a couple of times, and through his letter. That's Paul's way of saying, "**Aiight Fam.**" Listen up. This is good.

Thesis: "Because we are Alive in Christ, we are dead to sin and its obligations"

I. Dead to the Law of Death (1-3)

- A. **Law of sin and death.** Married/United to sin.
- B. **As believers, are we obligated to keep the law?** Nope! Hah. Tricked ya! We're not obligated to, but we do want to. If you're redeemed and saved by the blood of Jesus, you don't want to sin, you want to obey and live for sanctification and righteousness. More like Jesus.
- C. You're free! Sin died. Death is dead! Law is dead! Dead/Alive in Christ. Union with Christ.

ILLUSTRATION: Abusive Husband Dies. Slave. From childhood, kidnapped/sold into slavery. This is what the movie TAKEN is all about. He goes on a mission to save his daughter from sold into trafficking. "**Battered Woman Syndrome.**" Form of PTSD, now being used as a form of self-defense in court.

- D. Not bound to law, sin, death anymore! No ties. Bonds. Dead abuser/master.

APPLICATION: We don't have to kill our abuser/slave-master. Jesus already has on the cross. Sin is dead. Death is dead. Devil is defeated. Law is dead.

II. Alive in Jesus (4-6)

- A. "**Aiight Fam.**" **Let's talk Jesus** now. You've died to that and you're alive in Christ.
- B. **Union with Christ.** Died with Christ. Alive in Christ. Whatever Jesus did, I did. Whatever He has, I have. Whatever He is, I am. (Not divinity). But a Son. And Heir. Counted/Credited as righteous. A sin-defeater! Law-keeper! Righteous-Saint! I have rights and freedoms.
- C. **The Spirit brings life and fruit.** True Heart Obedience vs. Legalistic/Written code obedience.
- D. "**Binding the Conscience.**" "In all things, freedom and wisdom and discretion and moderation.

ILLUSTRATION: Spurgeon and D.L. Moody. Cigar. Spurgeon was chomping on a flaming stogie and Moody exclaimed, "How could you, a man of God, smoke that cigar?" Spurgeon stepped toward Moody, pointed at his protruding belly and said, "The same way that you, a man of God, can be that fat." "I'll put down my cigar when you put down your fork."

- E. **We do this.** We like to make man-written or culturally appropriate laws for Christians, in order to feel more holy and obedient and acceptable to God. While our heart is nowhere near in line with His gospel, our real sin, love for Jesus or love for our neighbors. We live in fear of messing up and disappointing, rather than living in the joy and freedom of his redeeming grace.

APPLICATION: See list of "Cultural sins" on back.

III. The Law is Still Good (7-12)

- A. "**Hell...no.**" Lies from Hell and smell like smoke. The law isn't sin! It shows us our sin!
- B. **Then why the law?** What good is it? Said this before, over and over, but it's worth reminding you and myself because we live in the South, in a "**Moralistic Nominal Christian Culture**".
- C. **Law helps me know my sin.** If I know my sin, I know I need I need to be saved, if I know I need to be saved, I know I can't save myself, because the law already showed me and continues to show me my sin. If I can't save myself, then I know I need a Savior. I know I need a Savior, I'll look for one. Sometimes I look for a Savior in other things and people, rather than myself, until I find Jesus. If I know Jesus is the only Savior who can save sinners, then I trust in Him. If I trust in Jesus as my Savior, then I am save from my sins. All of this is because the law showed me my sins in the first place. So the law is good, because it brings me to Jesus in the end. And shows me His grace and salvation and righteousness.

ILLUSTRATION: Augustine. "We carried off a huge load of pears, not to eat ourselves, but to dump out to the hogs, after barely tasting some of them ourselves. Doing this pleased us all the more because it was forbidden. Such was my heart, O God, such was my heart—which thou did pity..." B/c law said "no."

APPLICATION: Coveting/Envy. Forgotten sin. Melissa Kruger: The Mother of all sins. **Culture of envy.**

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CULTURAL SINS:

- **SUBSTANCES:** Drinking alcohol, certain types of alcohol, Smoking/Tobacco.
- **GAMES:** Playing Cards. (GAMBLING)
- **MUSIC:** Rock music, R&B music, Latin Music, Rap Music, EDM, Metal,
- **LANGUAGE:** curse words, conversations, topics
- **CLOTHES:** Dresses, ties, coats, collared shirt, pants,
- **SCHOOL:** Homeschool, Private school, Public school, No school, etc.
- **ENTERTAINMENT:** Subscriptions, Movies, TV, Theater, etc.
- **FOOD:** Processed, Meat, Sugar, Sugar Free, Gluten (j/k), "Offend. You eat the food my food eats."
- **CHEMICALS:** Cleaners, Oils, Medications, Vitamins, etc.
- **PROPERTY:** No ownership (this is not our home), Only property, Gold/No gold (greed), save/give
- **WEAPONS:** No weapons, lots of weapons. Everybody should! Self-Defense. Defend the vulnerable.
- **EARTH:** Steward earth. Don't Pollute. Earth is ours, we can use it how we want! Green Earth liberals.

OUR SINFUL NATURE is actually prone to **Legalism (religion/moralism) & Antinomianism (irreligion/immoralism)**. Only the Grace of Jesus can treat both. "*The Whole Christ*" by Sinclair Ferguson. "*Marrow of Modern Divinity*".

My intent was not to ruffle feathers, but to point out the irony and ridiculousness of our own tendency to legalize everything, and to bind other people's consciences. We've done it for 10,000 years and we'll keep doing it. That's why we need the grace of Jesus.

I believe Legalism is just as dangerous as immoralism, maybe more. They both keep us from Jesus.

Immoralism says "I don't want a Savior."

Legalism says "I don't need a Savior."

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