

**LAW AND SIN**  
**ROMANS 7:7-25**  
**5/25/25**

**I. QUESTION #1 – IS THE LAW SIN?**

*Romans 7:7a - “What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means!”*

**A. It uncovers sin**

*Romans 7:7b - “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.’”*

**B. It arouses sin**

*Romans 7:8 - “But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.”*

**II. RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW – BEFORE SALVATION**

*Romans 7:9-11 - “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.”*

**A. The Law promised life – Legalism**

**B. The result was only death**

**III. DECLARATION – THE LAW IS NOT SIN... IT IS HOLY**

*Romans 7:12 - “So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.”*

**IV. QUESTION #2 – DID THE LAW BRING DEATH?**

*Romans 7:13 - “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.”*

**A. The real culprit of death is sin...not the Law**

John Stott: “Indeed the extreme sinfulness of sin is seen precisely in the way it exploits a good thing (the law) for an evil purpose (death).” <sup>1</sup>

**B. The Law is a mirror “proving sin to be sin”**

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<sup>1</sup> John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God’s Good News for the World*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 204.

## V. RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW – AFTER SALVATION

*Romans 7:14-24 - “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. <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. <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. <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. <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. <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. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”*

### A. We are in conflict

1. The Law (spiritual) vs. Us (fleshly)
2. Desire vs. Performance

*Romans 7:6 - “...so that we serve in the **NEW WAY OF THE SPIRIT** and not in the old way of the written code?”*

*Romans 6:13 - “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.”*

## VI. DECLARATION – JESUS DELIVERS US

*Romans 7:25- “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.”*

### COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why is Paul’s experience here in Romans 7 important for us to understand? How do we navigate this conflict between sin and godliness?
3. How does knowing (vs.17, 20) that sin still dwells in us affect how we view ourselves? How does it affect how we treat others? How does knowing this make us more dependent on God?
4. Paul describes this conflict in terms of warfare. What are some tools to help us deal with the war on indwelling sin?
5. How does our understanding of sin inside of us make God’s grace greater?
6. Paul’s transparency here is refreshing for us. Why do we struggle with transparency in the church setting? How do we create space for people to open up about their struggles with sin?
7. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you would like to live out? How can the group help you live that out this week?