

REFLECTION / LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Read Romans 7:7-25

- Think of your own journey to faith in Christ. How does this passage of scripture relate to your own life?
- How, and why, is it helpful to be reminded that the commandments are about internal attitudes before they are about external behaviors?
- Are there ways you are tempted to have pharisaical view of God's law, and of the Christian life?
- How does the reality of Paul's struggle in the Christian life encourage you in your own struggles?
- Why is it liberating to be honest about your wretchedness, and certain about forgiveness? What happens if we forget one or the other truth?
- How has Romans 1-7 changed your love for Jesus? Your desire to serve him? Your view of yourself?



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STRUGGLES WITH SIN

Romans 7:7-25

JULY 10th, 2016

TWO TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL IN ROMANS:

GOD IS HOLY, SO OUR SINS REQUIRE THAT WE BE PUNISHED:

- You are more sinful than you could ever believe.

GOD IS GRACIOUS, SO IN CHRIST OUR SINS ARE DEALT WITH:

- You are more accepted in Christ than you could ever imagine.

Romans 7:7-12

⁷ What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! 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."⁸ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹ I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰ The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good

What was the purpose of the Law?

1. The Law Exposes our Sin
2. The Law Silences our Excuses

Romans 7:13-14 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. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

THE CHRISTIAN PROBLEM:

**NO ONE GETS SO ADVANCED IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
THAT THEY NO LONGER STRUGGLE WITH SIN**

THREE STRUGGLES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Romans 7:15-17 ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

1. **THE STRUGGLE TO LIVE UP TO WHAT WE KNOW WE OUGHT TO BE**

- I am not yet who I ought to be but I am also not who I used to be

Romans 7:18-20 ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

2. **THE STRUGGLE WITH REPEATED FAILURE**

- My failures remind me of the places where Jesus is still at work

Romans 7:21-23 ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ 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.

3. **THE STRUGGLE TO ADMIT THE WAR WITHIN US**

- My battle against sin is a testimony that Jesus has already won!

TWO CRIES OF THE CHRISTIAN HEART

Romans 7:24-25 ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 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.

- Cry of Discouragement: Who will rescue me?
- Cry of Hope: Christ has rescued and will rescue me!