

Book Study #12 ROMANS

Rom. 7:7-25 Struggling With Sin

Before We Begin...

"What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."a But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good. Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. a7 Exodus 20:17; Deut. 5:21



1. When you were growing up, did you ever do the opposite of what your parents wanted just to assert your independence? Do your own children/nieces, nephews do this? How?

Exploration... Discovery... Revelation...

2. In this passage Paul answers two questions about the law. Write these questions in the space below and summarize Paul's answers.



First question (v.7)

Answer:

Second question (v.13)

Answer:

3. What is the main thing Paul is trying to do here?

4. How does Paul describe the law?

v.10	v.13
v.12	v.14

5. In contrast, how does he describe the effects of sin working through the law?

v. 7	v. 10
v. 8	v. 11
v. 9	v. 13

6. How does Paul describe his own condition in verses 14-25? How does this compare to his descriptions elsewhere of the believer’s condition in Christ?

Paul’s condition	The believer’s condition in Christ
7:14	6:14
7:18	6:18
7:19	7:6
7:23	8:2
7:25	8:9

As we end this part of the Journey...

Pray for one another. Pray that we would each live the “Holy Life.” A life filled with the desire to do the Will of God and follow Christ and the Holy Spirit. “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” (The Apostle Paul in Romans 8:5)