

Topics in Romans So Far

God's Wrath & Judgment of Sin- All have sinned & fall short of the glory of God.

God's Justification of Believers- To be "justified" is a legal term. Legal declaration of our status by God

Sanctification- Greek word **hagiazō** "To set apart", "to make holy".

Sanctification Often Referred to as "Process", Most New Testament References Don't Use It This Way

- Most New Testament references to sanctification refer to a completed action.
 - Paul addresses the Church in Corinth as ***"Saints Sanctified in Christ"***
- Church often fails to recognize sanctification as a completed work because:
 - 1 Phillipians passage ***"Workout your own salvation...fear & trembling"***
 - 2 We evaluate the idea of sanctification through lens of own lives.
 - 3 We like being able to take credit. We like to think we are responsible for our holiness.

Only "Process" Has To Do w/ Us Living In Manners That Reflect Our Holy Status

As Saints Who Have Been Sanctified – Made Completely Holy as Christ Is Holy

We have a different relationship to sin & to the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 6 Paul Introduced Believers' Relationship to Sin

- 1. Believers Are dead to Sin – So We Can Live in Newness of Life**
- 2. Believers Are Free From Sin – So We Are Now Slaves to Righteousness**

Chapter 7 Paul Will Discuss Believers' Relationship to The Law

- I. Believers Have Died to the Law (1-6)**
- II. Trying to Live by The Law Leads to Death**
- III. Only Jesus Can Satisfy The Law For Us**

I. Believers Have Died to the Law (1-6)

Read 7:1-6

Paul Uses Unique Juxtaposition of Various References to Law In This Chapter

1. **The Law** – Literally Old Testament law. The rites & rituals prescribed to Jews
2. **law** – a specific truth or specific law that is not necessarily Old Testament per se
3. **Law Abiding Activity**- principle of law, how law works & governs, practice of obeying law.

Vs. 1. *“Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives.”*

- In other words, speaking to those who *“know law”* or *“know how the principle of law works”*

Vs. 2-3 Paul Gives An Example from a SPECIFIC Old Testament Law About Marriage

- Married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive
- If husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him. She’s not bound to a dead man
- Paul is emphasizing that death is the only thing that releases from the authority of the law.

Paul Reveals Believers Likewise Released From O.T. Law Because We Have Died to Law Vs. 4-6

(Just Like We Have Died to Sin, We Have Also Died to The Law)

- Vs 4a *“You were made to die to the Law through the Body of Christ.....”*
 1. “Die” (passive) – activity by God on behalf of the believer.
 2. God caused us to become dead/released of obligation to satisfy the Law
 3. Vehicle by which He has done this is Body of Christ **Col. 1:22**

Interesting parallel between God making us DEAD to LAW and DEAD to SIN in Chapter 6 & 7

- 6:3-6
 - Baptized into death w/ Jesus
 - Buried with him
 - Raised from the dead like him.
 - United w/ Him in newness of life
- 6:13 *“....present the members of your body as instruments of righteousness.”*
- 7:4
 - Made to die through the body of Christ (Like baptized/immersed)
 - Joined to him who was raised from dead (united w/ Him death, burial, resurrection)
 - Bear fruit for God (Newness of life , instruments of righteousness for God’s glory)

Vs. 5 *“Sinful passions aroused by the law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death”*

- Paul says sin was “at work” to bear fruit for death. Sin has an agenda. **John 10** “steal, kill, destroy”
- 6:21 *“What were you benefitting from sinful acts before Jesus? They only brought death”*

Vs. 6 *“But now we have been released from the law...”*

- We were bound to the standards of the law, we could not satisfy, until God satisfied them through Jesus.

Vs. 6b *“...so that we serve in newness of the Spirit not oldness of the letter.”*

- The expectation is that we now live in the newness of the life we have received.

Principle I: Believers Have Died to Sin (we’ve been released from trying to maintain law)

II. Living By the Law Leads to Death (7-12)

Paul Clarifies The Law IS NOT Sin

- Vs. 7 ***“What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be!”***
 - Paul asks and answers a rhetorical question that may have arisen in minds of his audience
- Vs. 5 *If the Law arouses sin in my body, then the Law must be sinful (Paraphrase)*
 - Absolutely not!!
 - The law makes us aware and understand what sin is.
 - Romans 3 Paul said Israel was blessed because they were given the oracles of God.
 - Being aware of sin is a blessing. Awareness of sin points us to our need for a Savior.

The Law is Good, But Sin Uses The Law to Deceive Us (8-11)

- Vs. 8 Paul says that sin takes advantage through the Law. **“it seizes the opportunity”**
 - Vs. 8b ***“apart from the Law sin is dead.”***
 - In other words, sin doesn’t have the same power. Sin always existed, but it lacks the deception.

Illustration: Garden of Eden – Eating from the Tree of Knowledge was always forbidden
Satan tempts by twisting God’s command “Did God really say?”

Paul Uses Himself as An Example (9-11)

- Vs. 9 ***“I was once alive apart from Law”***
 - Paul wasn’t sinless, but he was going through life with little knowledge of sin.
- Vs. 9b ***“when the commandment came, sin became alive & I died...”***
 - Other translations might say “sin sprang to life.” It became eagerly prominent in his life.
- Vs. 10-11 ***“this commandment which was to result in life proved to result in my death”***
 - Vs. 12 “through the commandment Paul was deceived and killed.”
 - It was God’s command in the garden Satan used to tempt Eve.
 - All of a sudden the command was no longer Eve’s protection
 - The command now became an obstacle to being “like God”
 - The command was to promote life, but resulted in death when sin seized the opportunity.

Vs. 12 Paul Answers His Rhetorical Question From Vs. 7 The Law Is Holy, Righteous , & Good

- Vs. 12 Paul concludes the answer to the question in Vs. 7
 - “So then, the Law is holy, & righteous, & good”

Principle II: Living by Law Leads to Death

Paul has revealed that the Law has no power to save.

Sin takes advantage of the law.

The law can become a catalyst in many ways to arouse sin in us.

Law-like living inherently leads to destruction since it never satisfies.

III. The Law Cannot Rescue From Sin- Jesus Rescues From Sin (13-25)

Vs. 13 As A Result of Identifying the Law As Holy, Righteous, & Good – Is It the Cause of My Death?

- *“May it never be!!” It was always sin that causes death & condemnation.”*
- The law simply reveals & exposes sin for what it really is.
- **Vs. 13** *“....through the commandment sin became utterly sinful.”*
 - There’s a reality that we can actually desire sin even more when we know its wrong

Vs. 14-16 Since God Calls Us Sanctified- We Simply Struggle w/ Lifestyles That Do Not Match

- Look at what Paul describes about his own struggle.
- **Vs. 16** Paul reveals that when he recognizes that something is sinful, & yet he still does it, he is confirming that the law is good.
 - The very reality that we struggle with temptation of sin means the Law is doing its job.

Vs. 17-21 Paul Articulates Our Dilemma – Sanctified, But We Still Struggle w/ Mortal Temptations

- Sin dwells in our mortal bodies
- Positionally we are completely Holy
- God has declared us as Holy as Jesus is.
- Yet, we are left to navigate life with a body of flesh that still desires things of the flesh.

Let’s Not Forget Paul’s Larger Point- Law Abiding Activity Has No Power to Save Us

- Even when he knows the right thing- he struggles to do it completely
- Paul says it is the sin that dwells in him that causes him to do evil
- Paul **IS NOT** saying that he is an innocent bystander simply along for the ride.
- He’s saying even when I know what is right I still struggle
 - Sin has NEVER been disconnected from the willful decisions of mankind

Vs. 23-25 Paul Summarizes His Dilemma-

“In my mind I know I am sanctified, but my flesh falls short of my position in God.”

- **Vs. 24** *“Who will set me free from the body of this death? – Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ!”*

Principle III: Living by Law Cannot Rescue from Sin – Only Jesus Rescues From Sin

Conclusion:

Last Week Paul has showed us that we are completely sanctified in Christ Jesus.

- Our sanctification makes us dead to sin & slaves to righteousness
- We have been baptized or completely immersed in Christ’s death, burial, & resurrection
- This comes w/ a purpose. Live in newness of life. To offer our bodies as instruments of righteousness

This Week

I. Believers are Dead to the Law

II. Trying to Live by Law Leads to Death

III. Living by Law Cannot Rescue from Sin – Only Jesus Rescues from Sin

- Paul has shown us the futility of trying to maintain law abiding activity.
- Paul says we are no longer bound to the law now that Jesus has satisfied it on our behalf
- We’ve learned that attempting to live by law-like activity actually reveals how utterly sinful we are
- Strict adherence to the law is impossible & cannot rescue us. Only Jesus rescues from sin.