

The Introduction

- Romans 6:1-14 God Kills Our Sin
- Romans 6:15-23 God Buries Our Sin
- Romans 7:1-6 God Rips Our Sin From Us

The Text

Romans 7:7–25 (CSB)

⁷ What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! But, I would not have known sin if it were not for the law. For example, I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, Do not covet.

⁸ And sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind. For apart from the law sin is dead.

⁹ Once I was alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life again

¹⁰ and I died. The commandment that was meant for life resulted in death for me.

¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.

¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.

¹³ Therefore, did what is good become death to me? Absolutely not! But, sin, in order to be recognized as sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that through the commandment, sin might become sinful beyond measure.

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold as a slave under sin.

¹⁵ For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but I do what I hate.

¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want to do, I agree with the law that it is good.

¹⁷ So now I am no longer the one doing it, but it is sin living in me.

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it.

¹⁹ For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do.

²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, I am no longer the one that does it, but it is the sin that lives in me.

²¹ So I discover this law: When I want to do what is good, evil is present with me.

²² For in my inner self I delight in God's law,

²³ but I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body.

²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I myself am serving the law of God, but with my flesh, the law of sin.

God

God uses the law to diagnoses the sin in our hearts

⁷ What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! But, I would not have known sin if it were not for the law. For example, I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, Do not covet. ⁸ And sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind. For apart from the law sin is dead.

God uses the law to cut away the sin in our hearts

⁹ Once I was alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life again ¹⁰ and I died. The commandment that was meant for life resulted in death for me.

Ezekiel 36:26 (CSB) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Luke 5:31-32 (CSB) Jesus replied to them, “It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Jeremiah 31:33 (CSB) “Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days”—the LORD’s declaration. “I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Psalms 119:9-11 (CSB) How can a young man keep his way pure?

By keeping your word.

¹⁰ I have sought you with all my heart;
don’t let me wander from your commands.

¹¹ I have treasured your word in my heart
so that I may not sin against you.

God uses the law to clearly expose the sin within our hearts

¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.

You never knew you struggled with any sin until you became a Christian. And it is such a temptation for a new believer to go back into slavery, as a dog returns to its vomit, because it was so much easier when you didn't know better.

Now that you have read the word, it is exposing all kinds of mess. And you don't know how to sort it out. You might confess your sins to God but you don't know what you are confessing and you are

unsure about your heart behind it.

I get that. I have been there before.

But let me tell you what happens. That exposure of your sin by Scripture takes it out into the light. Do you know what Charles Spurgeon titled his sermon on this passage?

"Dragging the Monster into the Light"

Because that is what God is doing in you right now. And you confessing to the Lord drags it out into the light. And in the moment you might wonder, "Is that all?"

Let me assure you that monster, when exposed to the light of Christ, shrivels up and dies.

1 John 1:9 (CSB) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

But you are not left as a shell of a person with a gaping hole in your heart from where God pulled the cancer. No! God fills you with his Spirit; the Son and the Father make their home in you and dwell there all the days of your life. We just read in Jeremiah where he puts his word and law into our hearts forever.

The Gospel

You can trust the work of God on your heart

¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.

That is not to say the Bible, the law, the gospel, the prophets, the psalms are just something better than anything else. It is good. It is holy. God's gospel commandments are just that: just and good and holy.

God is a good Father that only gives good gifts.

But you have to let go of the sin you are holding on to.

But you have to engage God and his word and in prayer to expose those little sin tumors that you can't see because you never been trained to see.

And yes, I do believe you need to get therapy for our physical, mental, and emotional health--but find yourself a good therapist that will not just give you a bunch of diagnoses that sound close to the truth but points you to Christ and by the power of the Spirit to take the word of God and help you examine what is going on within you.

Our Responsibility

¹³ Therefore, did what is good become death to me? Absolutely not! But, sin, in order to be recognized as sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that through the commandment, sin might become sinful beyond measure.

This is where we come back to the gospel and what God has called us and commanded us to do: trust in him. Trust his words. Walk this out in obedience.

This might not happen quickly but I promise you the more you do it, the quicker you will run towards God.

God

God is at work: you will begin to see the difference between the spiritual and the flesh

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold as a slave under sin.

God is at work: you will begin to hate sin that you do

¹⁵ For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but I do what I hate.

God is at work: you will begin to feel the pain of the cutting of the law on your life

¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want to do, I agree with the law that it is good. ¹⁷ So now I am no longer the one doing it, but it is sin living in me.

The Gospel

We are a new creation: before, we started far from him

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it.

We are a new creation: before, we started with no ability to obey him at all

¹⁹ For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do.

We are a new creation: we are not at peace with sin

²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, I am no longer the one that does it, but it is the sin that lives in me.

We are a new creation: we will not be perfectly obedient

²¹ So I discover this law: When I want to do what is good, evil is present with me.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (CSB) For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

We are a new creation: we are at war with sin

²²⁻²³ For in my inner self I delight in God's law, but I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body.

Psalms 19:7–14 (CSB)

⁷ The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the command of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are reliable and altogether righteous.

10 They are more desirable than gold— than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

11 In addition, your servant is warned by them, and in keeping them there is an abundant reward.

12 Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults.

13 Moreover, keep your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule me. Then I will be blameless and cleansed from blatant rebellion.

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Psalms 119:9–16 (CSB)

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word.

10 I have sought you with all my heart; don't let me wander from your commands.

11 I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.

12 LORD, may you be blessed; teach me your statutes.

13 With my lips I proclaim all the judgments from your mouth.

14 I rejoice in the way revealed by your decrees as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts and think about your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Song of Solomon 8:6 (CSB) Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death; jealousy is as unrelenting as Sheol. Love's flames are fiery flames— an almighty flame!

Our Responsibility

Praise his name: We were once dead

²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Ephesians 2:1-3 (CSB) And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ² in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. ³ We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

Titus 3:3 (CSB) For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another.

Praise his name: we are fully alive in Christ

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Ephesians 2:4-7 (CSB) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! ⁶ He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Titus 3:4-7 (CSB) But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, ⁵ he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

Praise be his name: go and sin no more

So then, with my mind I myself am serving the law of God, but with my flesh, the law of sin.

Pray

MY SPOTLESS LAMB

Take all of my sins.

Amen.

