

**Introduction:**

- Romans 7 is one of the most famous chapters in the letter, and some would say in the Bible.
- Along with being a such a fascinating chapter people also argue over –the unregenerate Paul, the saved Paul, the backsliding Paul, the backsliding Christian etc. etc.
- The main topic of Romans 7 is the law! The “I” of Romans seven is contingent upon that.
  - First 7:1-6 Paul argues by using marriage illustration that ones bondage with the law must be shattered in order to come into a right relationship with God. When you are dead you are no longer bound by the law.
  - Second, despite its divine origin, the law can neither justify nor sanctify. This is huge in Pauls Gospel.
- What Paul shows in chapter 7 is this: The Law is good. Sin is bad. And sin is even ‘worse than expected’ because of the law.
- Tonight what we will see is that Paul basically repeats all he has taught in 7:1-12 only he put the focus on the ‘I’ Ego. As in how do ‘I’ relate to this understanding of the law and having been set free from the law. Read Romans 7:14-25

**I. Love For the Law Yet Challenged By Sin**

- A. There is a two fold comparison that seems to flow through this section. The Spiritual law and the fleshly Paul.
1. Comparison 1:
    - a) Love of the Law: Romans 7:14a, "*For we know that the Law is spiritual.*" NKJV
    - b) Challenged by sin: "*...I am all too human a slave to sin.*" 14b NLT
  2. Comparison 2:
    - a) Love for the Law: "*“But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good.”* (Romans 7:16, NLT) Paul is saying “I love it that the law tells me where I am wrong so I can be better. I agree with the law!”
    - b) Challenged by sin: "*“So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.”* (Romans 7:17, NLT) ἡ οἰκουσα ἐν ἐμοὶ ἁμαρτία (Here is where the term ‘in-dwelling sin’ comes from. “Sin lives here.” We see it again in verse 20. “*Living in me.*”
  3. Comparison 3:
    - a) Love of the Law: "*I love God’s law with all my heart.*" (Romans 7:22, NLT)
    - b) Challenge of sin: "*But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.*" (Romans 7:23, NLT)
  4. Comparison 4:
    - a) Love for the Law: "*...So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God’s law, ...*" (Romans 7:25, NLT)
    - b) Challenge of sin: "*but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.*" (Romans 7:25, NLT)

## B. Summary;

1. The law is good because it comes from God. It is holy, it is just...it also affirms the ones who would be reading this letter, that that which is from God is good, it is spiritual.
2. The law is good because it shows me just how sinful I really am. That, 'is bad' because the law is powerless to do anything about the sin that is revealed in me.
3. It is not the law that is sinful, in fact the law showed me my sin. 7:7 But the fact that the law is powerless to do anything about it other than show me how sinful I am leaves me in a wretched place. As a Christian the law still does what it was designed to do...show me what is wrong that I may be sanctified...but by what???
4. Do you see what Paul is writing? I love the Law! It shows me how sinful I am. Sin used it to stir all the more sin in me. Did the law cause my death? vs 13. No, sin in me did that.

**II. What the Law Gives Me As A Believer**

- A. Misery! Why, because we cannot obey it to the letter. Even though we want to because it is good. But when we are dead to the law it is powerless over us and we now serve God though the Spirit. vs. 6
- B. Problem with no solution
  1. *"We know the law is spiritual..."* vs. 14 pulls us into the fray of what Paul unleashes here. The comment is meant to cause the reader to relate.
  2. Because the law is powerless we must look elsewhere for our deliverance and identity. Thanks be to God! The answer is in Jesus Christ.
  3. \*\*\*\*Can I remind us again, The letter to the Romans is about how sinful human beings, are justified on the basis of what Jesus Christ has done for us in His life, death, and resurrection. Remember the glory of the Gospel is that God provides for us a righteousness that is not our own but granted to us by faith.
- C. The need for a deliverer.
  1. He is setting us up for Chapter 8 and life in the Spirit!

**III. Romans 7:14-25 Practically Speaking**

- A. I Love the Law of God
  1. *"I love God's law with all my heart."* (Romans 7:22, NLT)
- B. I Hate What I Just Did
  1. *"I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate."* (Romans 7:15, NLT)
- C. I Am Miserable
  1. *"Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?"* (Romans 7:24, NLT)
- D. Thank God For The Answer

1. *"Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin."* (Romans 7:25, NLT)
2. Pauls Gospel is a Gospel that frees us from the power of sin.
  - a) It removes us from under the domain of sin! We are given His righteousness!
  - b) It removes the power of sin from over us when we fall short. And points us to life and righteousness.
  - c) The law does its job (Paul says he serves it with his mind v25) and Christ does His, delivers us from all unrighteousness!
  - d) We will always contend with sin while in this flesh awaiting our resurrected bodies.  
Paul is a 'new man' constantly putting off the 'old man.'

Conclusion:

John Piper says it well, *"This new man is who you decisively and irrevocably are in Christ. This free man is your deepest and truest identity. Now act on it. Look to Christ, trust his help, and by his Spirit become what you are."*