

Romans: The Gospel

The Law is Holy

Romans 7:7-25

A little serious, a little tough, but hopefully the right prescription

[Pray]

:7-8

What shall we say then?

Because...delivered from...

- Ch. 6 - Slavery of sin
- 7:16 - Free from judgment of the law

Is the law, sin?

(v5 sinful passions aroused)

Confused thinking ... law itself is sin!

Western culture is that confused!

Thou shalt not murder...

Ehh, unless it's a healthcare ceo!

Or Charlie kirk! Or a baby!

But not a terrorist!

Correlation, not causation

Sin deceives

Why? So you won't recognize it

**The law shows sin for what it is...
sin!**

DG "We need sin to appear as sin, because it always wants to hide in us and conceal its true depths and strength."

The Law is a Lens

- Telescope (the big picture)
- Microscope (the root)
- Glasses (see clearly)
- Camera (evidence)

Do you recognize sin for sin?

Are you shocked by what you see?

- world doesn't recognize sin
- The church?

"The first step to solving the problem is realizing you have one"

Tape over check engine light...

Ignoring problem won't fix it

The Law is a Light

You can't see without light!

John 1:4-5, 7, 9 - In [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... [John The Baptist] came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ... That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

Dad joke...

"Doctor, it hurts when I do this...Then don't do that!"

**Sin takes opportunity by the law,
Not advantage of it**

(sin can't change the facts)

<p>Sin does evil even with good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isn't that the worst type of evil? • Perfect picture of our age <p>Sin produces evil desire</p> <p><i>You have a capacity for desire But desires are not the deepest part of you Sin lives underneath the layer of desire And can dictate it</i></p> <p>Either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sin at the root • Righteousness at the root <p>Psalm 37:4 - Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.</p> <p>You'll either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delight in sin • Delight in the Lord <p><u>You can't do both</u></p> <p>Desire - longing, craving, lust, forbidden</p> <p>God created the ability to have desires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He desires us! • And we are made to desire Him! 	<p>Sin is a perversion of His holy designs</p> <p>a corruption, cheap copy, distortion</p> <p>Sin's deception is that it's better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican Coke vs. US Coke • Coke II • If you've never had the original, you won't know better. <p>The law reveals the original</p> <p><i>We're designed for the original We can't truly be satisfied with sin</i></p> <p>The law protects desires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects good from being ruined • And corrects when bad crops up <p>Sin distorts desires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right thing in the wrong way • Wrong things wrong ways <p>Proverbs 20:17 NLT Stolen bread tastes sweet, but it turns to gravel in the mouth.</p> <p>Feelings & desires lie!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just because you feel it • Doesn't mean it's real/good/true
<p>Apart from the law, sin was dead (not that sin didn't exist, we just didn't know it)</p> <p><i>Theories of illness before microscope</i></p> <p>If not innocent, oblivious</p> <p>Even when we got the law, our sin made us use it in the wrong way</p> <p><i>The minutia developed, loopholes, etc.</i></p>	<p>We never wanted to actually obey it, just look like it</p> <p>Mat 23:23 - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier [matters] of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.</p>

Sin doesn't mind if you obey some, as long as it leads you astray in the important ones - in fact it prefers it!

- *Go to church, but don't know God*
- *Trust Jesus, just not the real One*
- *Be nice, don't repent*

**Sin around before Moses & Law...
the Garden! The Flood!**

Sin learns the law so it can be a better rebel

Bucci's pool sign

Then you're thinking of it, wondering if you can get away with it

**The Garden revealed sin and sacrifice
Both require death**

- *It sacrifices you, to death*
- *You must sacrifice life to be free of it*

:9-11

I was alive once...

- *Perceived life*
- *before judgment revealed*

Bored Christians...I used to have a life!

You can have a better one...

Israelites in wilderness...

Sin promises life and gives death

The ole bait and switch

The commandment reveals life's boundaries.

Wall of the garden.

"A republic, if you can keep it" - Benjamin Franklin

But we can't keep it, stay inside the lines
So we get death

Wrestling, pushed out of bounds -

Sin makes us want to be out of bounds!

Death, by exile.

Death by exposure to the elements

Sin revived...

Sin is like a Virus

- *Classification, not a live or dead*
- *Behavior - infect host, reproduce, kill host*

Sin takes occasion

- *A base of operations for attack*
- *Supplies resources for undertaking*
- *Uses the law to attack or twist*

Satan is the what of the brethren? **Accuser.**

- *He'll tempt us to against law and then accuse use with the law*
- *When we feel the judgment, why not sin more? We're already judged?*
Already going to jail, why stop now?

It's a lie!

- *Judgment was taken at the cross!*
- *So we can now stop.*
- *We can now be forgiven.*

:12**The Law is Holy**

Most holy thing, separated

**It's so holy we can't keep it
It's so separate we can't touch it***The Ark of the Covenant...zap!***The law as a whole, also each****If you can't remember them all ...**

- love God, love others as yourself
- If you break one, you've broken all

Holy, just and good

- Righteous, virtuous, approved, **what is due** (legally)
- of good nature, useful, **pleasant**, **joyful**, distinguished

Christian, do you have joy?

If not

- Liberty now vice? Stealing joy?
- An obedience lacking?
- Delayed obedience...sin

Jas 4:17 - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do [it], to him it is sin.**:13****Law not designed for death
But to preserve life by revealing sin***Eye doctor, liquid in eye to reveal if virus had reached***The law is meant to open our eyes**

- To what things actually are
- How we actually look
- from God's perspective

**It's a standard held up
to show us we don't meet it***Backlash against fashion industry**Unobtainable beauty**Young girls and suicide rates, social media**Showing your faults without hope***The law showed us our faults
To get us to hope in the One who
has none**

...God himself

:14-15**The law is spiritual -
God's law is not in agreement with
our flesh****Our laws agree with fleshly ideas!***Pro-life figures saying you can't be pro life
and pro death penalty***Carnal!***Pro-life for the innocent,
pro-death for the guilty**Why? To give justice to the innocent, hold the
guilty accountable - and get them to repent*

**Sold under sin...
slavery language again!**

Big verse:

What I am doing, I do not understand
What I will do to, I do not practice
What I hate, that I do

Before Jesus, when we saw the law,
knew what was right, but couldn't change,
couldn't stop

*Parents dropping kids off at church - know
maybe it's the right thing, but think it's too late
for themselves or don't want to change
themselves*

After Jesus

Trying to accomplish things without His Spirit,
seeing that our flesh is no different,

but we are not sold anymore

This is not an excuse to sin

**I just keep doing, but I know it's wrong, so
I'm ok...**

**This is not Paul saying he's still
behaving carnally**

That'd be your flesh twisting scripture for
excuse

If it was...

**He would have no room to rebuke
the Corinthians**

1Co 3:2-3a - I fed you with milk and not with
solid food; for until now you were not able [to
receive it], and even now you are still not
able; **for you are still carnal.**

Christian, are you still carnal?

Carne asada - grilled meat!
"Carnal Christians"

*I really struggle understanding these
wheat and tares, God knows*

How can you remain carnal?

Not be bothered by it?
Not do anything about it?

If indeed you know Him?

Not arrived, but no progress?

Sierra potty training

How are you a Christian for so long and still
in diapers?

I don't think it's a maturity issue

Even immature believers recognize the need
for change and want to and try to in the little
they know

But those who know a lot...and are content in
sin...

**You can't be content in sin if you're
born again**

- *Carne asada - your flesh has seared
your conscience*
- *So if you're born again, it's hard to tell*
- *And it's hard for you to see*
- *Because you're numb to the prod of
the word and the grief of the Spirit*

**Rev 3:22 - "He who has an ear, let him
hear what the Spirit says to the churches."**

' "

Jas 1:21-24 - Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the **implanted word (is God's word implanted in you?)**, which is able to save your souls. **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

:16-17

Awareness of sin and deep down desiring not to...is agreeing with God's law!

**However, the flesh ain't aligned
The flesh follows the law of sin**

Born this way? Yes, a sinner!

**Like Solomon's under the sun
This is a life, aware of the Son,
apart from power His Spirit**

Para, en, epi

The question is of your power source:

- The flesh? Only power to sin.
- The Spirit? Only power to win.

As a Christian, you're free to say no to sin
Yes to the Spirit

You have the desire and the ability

Carnal vs. spiritual

- Which do we feed?
- This is who will win.

Big struggles become little struggles the more we do the right thing

But as soon as we give in...Tug of war

:18-19

The flesh cannot produce spiritual success

- Can't understand the law
- Can't obey it

**The will desires to do right, can't,
Must repent toward God
Depend on God for ability**

Practice -patterns, not instances, are key

Instances left unrepented, become patterns

Habit loop

Cue > craving > response > reward

For a Christian

The reward of sin quickly turns to remorse
And the whole time you were aware, saying no to scripture, to the Spirit, not enjoying it like you used to

After the "reward" turns guilt

- we either repent to wash our guilt
- Or we return to try and ease the pain

:20-23

Sin enslaves the will

Deceives the will into wanting more slavery

"It is hard for you to kick against the goads"

So what do we do?

Psa 119:11 - Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

**Hide God's Word in our hearts
Exactly where sin wants to hide**

**Then when sin awakens,
the Word does too**

Waking up, folded hands, Proverbs

**When that happens, who we obey
reveals who's in charge
That's the spiritual war**

*Don't blame the enemy, don't blame others,
don't blame your environment*

*Realize it's your own flesh - and it doesn't
even have it's own best interest at heart*

**2Co 10:4-6 - For the weapons of our warfare
[are] not carnal but mighty in God...**
bringing every thought into captivity to the
obedience of Christ...

**The more we know the Word and disobey,
the more we twist the Word to suit our sin**

**Heb 6:4-6, 9 - For [it is] impossible for those
who were once enlightened, and have tasted
the heavenly gift, and have become partakers
of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good
word of God and the powers of the age to
come, if they fall away, to renew them again
to repentance, since they crucify again for
themselves the Son of God, and put [Him] to
an open shame. ... **But, beloved, we are
confident of better things concerning you,
yes, things that accompany salvation,
though we speak in this manner.****

:24-25

The clincher!

Recognition of our wretchedness!

- Sin killing us
- We didn't understand
- Law came, revealed sin & judgment
- When we agreed with it and saw our wretchedness
- Then we could be delivered

**Why would you turn to Jesus if you
didn't think you needed Him?**

That's why the Law is holy

To point us to the One who

- fulfilled the law for us
- Took our sin away from us
- Endured our death penalty
- Rose again so we could live

**Gal 3:24-25 - Therefore the law was our tutor
[to bring us] to Christ, that we might be
justified by faith. **But after faith has come,
we are no longer under a tutor.****

**The law was designed to drive us
to faith. Not send us to hell.**

That's the good news:

You can live a new life, a godly life, one you
now know your flesh can't, won't and doesn't
even want for you

**One fruitful to God in good works
Powered by His Spirit, enabled through
simple obedience to His Son,
The Word Made Flesh.**

