

Romans

Lesson 7: Romans 7

Legalism is a term used to describe a doctrinal position that emphasizes a system of rules and regulations to achieve both salvation and sanctification. Someone who is a legalist believes either that they are saved by keeping rules or they believe they grow spiritually by keeping rules, or both. However, Paul has concluded in Romans 6:14 that Christians are “not under law but under grace.” Therefore, in relation to the Law, the Christian is free. This doesn’t mean the law is bad because the purpose of the Law is point out sin. However, no one can be saved or sanctified by upholding the Law. In this chapter, Paul will tell us what the believer’s relationship to the law is and why Christians still struggle with sin. Let’s dive in and see what Paul has to say about the believer’s sanctification in Christ and struggle with sin.

➤ **Read Romans 7:1–12**

1. In verse 1, who is Paul speaking to?
2. In verses 2–3, what illustration does Paul use to show one’s relationship to the Law?
3. Read Ephesians 5:22–27. Why do you think Paul used the illustration he did in Romans 7:2–3?
4. In verse 4, what has the Christian died to? Did the law die?
5. In verse 4, who is the Christian joined to? What is the purpose of this union?

Application: In theology, antinomianism is the belief that there are no moral laws that God expects the Christian to obey. Antinomianism has taken the biblical teaching that Christians are not required to keep the Old Testament Law to be saved or sanctified and draws an unbiblical conclusion. How would you respond to someone who claims Christians are not expected to obey God's moral laws? Explain.

6. In verse 5, what is the "fruit" that Paul says someone "in the flesh" produces?

7. In verse 6, in what two ways does Paul describe the believer?

Application: Read Galatians 5:16–24. Is the Law meant to produce fruit in your life? How can you know when you are walking in the Spirit?

8. In verse 7, how does Paul answer the question, "Is the Law bad?"

Application: Imagine you are driving down the road and you see a speed limit sign that says 60 MPH. You look down at your speedometer and it says 70 MPH. Then a highway patrol officer pulls you over for speeding and writes you a ticket. Who is wrong in this situation, the sign, the driver, or the officer? Explain how this relates to the Law of God.

9. According to verses 9–11, what did sin do in Paul?

10. In verse 12, what is Paul’s conclusion about the Law?

Application: Why is legalism so dangerous for Christians? Have you ever struggled with legalism? Explain.

➤ **Read Romans 7:13–25**

11. In verse 13, what does Paul say was causing death in him?

12. Compare verses 5 and 14. Fill in the blanks.

Verse 5: “we were _____”

Verse 14: “I am _____”

13. Read 1 John 1:8–10. How does this relate to Paul’s statement in verse 14?

14. In verse 15, what does Paul do?

15. In verses 15–17, what does Paul say is still dwelling in him?

16. In verse 18, what is present in Paul?

17. In verses 18–20, what does Paul say is still dwelling in him?

18. In verses 21–23, the “members of my body” is the believer’s sinful humanness, and the “mind” is the believer’s redeemed inner man. What does Paul say happens between these two?

19. In verse 24, what is Paul’s final lament about his condition?

20. In verse 25, what is Paul’s final conclusion about being rescued from his old, sinful flesh?

Application: What is one thing in your life you should be doing? What is one thing in your life you should not be doing? As you struggle with these, make these a priority in your prayer life in the weeks to come.

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.