

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
Sunday School 2/5/23
Romans 7:1-12

WSC #69 - Q. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbidden the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.

I. Rom. 7:1-4 Released from the Law

* Who is released? Believers - Jew & Gentile (Both groups were instructed in the O.T.)

DQ - What analogy is introduced in v. 2? Does this analogy help you or cause you to stumble? What is it that breaks the obligation from the law?

v. 4 is usually where the confusion begins - some paraphrase it like this; once we were bound to the law, but now the law is dead & so, it is utterly irrelevant to Christian life. Antinomians would love to use this as a proof text ;-)

Is this what Paul is really saying? BY NO MEANS, MAY IT NEVER BE, "WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE THINKING"?

It's not the law who dies, but me!!! - Because my old self is dead, my relationship to the law is broken.

OLD LIFE = sinful, in bondage to the law, under its curse, under its burdensome, crushing domination.

It has authority as long as we live....Not, as long as the law lives.
The law doesn't die, man dies.

DQ - We still have a relationship to the law. How is our new relationship different from our old relationship?

From men's theology night - how do non Christians and Christians differ when dealing w/ sin?

NEW LIFE = we now bear fruit to God - The law couldn't do that, but Christ can elicit such a response.

Justification by faith(Christ) & living under grace(sanctification) is never a license to sin

This new status; by the power of life that is within us, encourages us that righteousness is a possibility and the fruit of Christ can be brought forth in us.

II. Rom. 7:5-6 Alive in the flesh vs. Alive in the Spirit

Flesh - the law awakened the desires of sin - these desires/passions worked out in us, brought forth fruit for death. BUT NOW - we are delivered from the law. What the law did, it no longer does.

Who delivered us?

Spirit - we are called to obedience - "we serve in the new way of the Spirit"

DQ - What is the difference between the letter of the law & the spirit of the law?

NEW WAY - Paul is speaking about something that takes place in us. The Spirit gives us a new attitude toward the law.

Jesus kept both the letter of the law and the spirit of law.

Christians with the help of the Holy Spirit are called to keep the letter & the spirit.
Understand? Confused? Troubled?

Let's take adultery - is it ok to keep the spirit of the law but not the letter? Could you have a good, sound, healthy, righteous motivation while committing adultery?

Could you have a good spiritual attitude while committing murder or stealing or coveting?

III. Rom. 7:7 Law vs. Sin

v. 7 - Without law there is now sin

without commandments there can be no transgressions.

Sin as defined, depends on a standard by which performance is measured

Sin is made known through the law ***Its not that there would have been nothing evil without the law, but we would never have known what sin was.

v. 8 - The law incite sin by functioning as an external stimulus to our own sins.

nothing is so attractive to us as the forbidden

The laws calls attention to wickedness that resides within our corrupt hearts.

***Deep within us there exists a rebellious spirit—the law incites us to sin.

v. 9 - Apart from the law I was alive; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life & I died.

The more Paul learned about the law the more sin was stirred up

v. 10 - We should use the law to understand how to live. Our sinful disposition takes the law of God & instead of using it as an instrument for life & righteousness, we distort it.

v. 11 - Sin deceives & through the commandment put me to death.

The commandment is like a sword....

Sin deceives and kills and the tool it uses is the commandment

v. 12 - Is grace good & the law bad?

The law is holy

The commandment is holy, just & good

What we do with these things may bring death & destruction but that is my sin, not the law

OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW NEVER KILLED ANYBODY