

**Riverview Baptist Church Wednesday Night Class:
A Study in the Book of Romans – Lesson 7**

Paul has addressed some simple facts so far in Romans. All have a sin nature and all have committed acts of sin. Therefore, all are in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Paul has also shown that those who have placed their faith in the Savior are _____ with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. So, theologically speaking, believers are _____ to sin and _____ to Christ! This results in our salvation!

When it comes to our sanctification, the setting apart from sin to God, Paul now deals with the internal struggle that believers have: we are saved, yet we still retain the sin nature and therefore still _____ to sin.

B. The Practice of Sanctification; The Question of Law, 7:1–25

1. Is the believer under law? 7:1–6

Romans 7:1-3 – Here Paul uses the metaphor of marriage to show that a believer is no longer bound by the principle of “law.” Just as in a marriage, when a spouse dies, the two are no longer married.

Since the believer is dead to sin (which was made manifest by “law”), then the believer is no longer bound (married in the metaphor) to sin. The believer has been released from sin and free to “marry” or be bound to another.

Romans 7:4-6 – The “another” the believer is freed to be bound to is Jesus Christ! He was the One who was raised from the dead!

What is the natural outcome of a marriage relationship? Children! In Paul's illustration, the progeny of the "unsaved relationship" is fruit for _____ (7:5). The progeny of the "saved relationship" is fruit for _____ God (7:4).

What is fruit for God? Compare Titus 3:14 for an answer.

2. Is the law evil? 7:7–12

We need to take note that words are used differently in the context of Scripture. Sometimes "law" is used in a general sense. Sometimes "Law" is used specifically. We have to pay attention to context (and the grammar of the original language).

Here in this passage Paul is referring to the specific Mosaic Law. Is the Law sin? Notice his response. It is in this passage that we see the true purpose behind the Law of Moses.

The Law was intended to show what sin is and the fact that man could not live up to its standard. In simple terms, mankind needed the _____.

The Law had the affect on _____ people like that of an immature child. Consider this example:

In this passage (7:7-12), notice the personal pronoun that is used. What is it? _____ Paul is describing his personal experience of realizing the reality of his sin and his need for salvation through Christ.

Paul realized that he himself had broken God's Law, therefore he was guilty! The Law was good in that it revealed his guilt. This was God's purpose for the Law.

3. Is the law a cause of death? 7:13–14

Did the Law, which Paul defines as good, become a cause of death? Notice his answer! The Law _____ the extent of Paul’s sinful nature. Sin is in reality _____ sinful!

4. How can I resolve the struggle within myself? 7:15–25

This is the heart of Paul revealed in words. He has presented great theological truths of man’s sinful state and what God did to deal with that situation. God sent His Son to be the remedy for sin!

For those who believe in substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God justifies him/her, declaring righteousness resulting in salvation. However, this does not eradicate the sin _____ in the believer.

Here Paul is expressing an honesty about his own life to the readers of this book! Can you relate to what Paul is saying here? There is a _____ conflict between two natures in a believer.

Romans 7:15-17 – This is _____ struggle! The Law, which exposed his sinfulness, is a good (Greek – beautiful, noble, excellent) thing! The struggle is between the righteous Paul and the sin nature that is still in him.

Romans 7:18-20 – Paul concludes that the Law is good in that it fulfills God’s purpose for it. He also concludes that the sinful nature is still in him! This is what he means by “in my flesh.”

Paul uses the same word “flesh” in different manners. Ryrie explains in this manner:

Paul uses “flesh” in several ways. (1) It denotes the personality of man controlled by sin and directed to selfish pursuits rather than to the service of God (here; v. 25; 8:5–7; Gal. 5:17). (2) It sometimes refers simply to physical descent (1:3; 9:3). (3) It also stands for the physical existence of a person, i.e., being in the body (Eph. 2:15; Philem. 16). There is no blame attached to the last two meanings of the word.¹

Paul understands it is his sin nature that is the source of his struggle to do right (7:19-20).

Romans 7:21-23 – Paul here uses the word “law” or “principle” in a generic fashion. This is the principle that he has learned from his own experiences. Evil is present in the life of a believer, even when the believer wants to do good!

This reality is something that Paul cannot escape from in his life. Neither can we escape from the evil in ourselves! However, as Paul has presented before (Romans 6), we are not enslaved to sin’s _____.

The reality of our sin nature being a part of who we as believers are is like a “living death” in Paul’s mind (7:24). What can be done about it? Through the Savior and the new life that we have in Him, we can overcome sin in our lives. However, it will always be a struggle until _____ or the _____.

¹ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Ryrie Study Bible: New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update, Expanded ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995), 1801.