

The Place of the Law in the Believer's Life (Law/Spiritual vs Sin/Flesh)

Romans 7:7-25

7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. 9 And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. 12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. 13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by *producing* my death through that which is good, that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, by the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other *hand*, with my flesh I am serving the law of sin.

The Authority of the Law vs1-6

As long as we live in this sin-infested flesh, the flesh is inclined to sin. "Natural inclination" of imputed sin.

- The only thing that can free us from sinning is death.
- While our physical death will end our physical sinning – it does nothing to resolve our spiritual unrighteousness.
- Jesus Christ freed us from spiritual death by His substitutionary death on the cross. His death gives us life!

Adam & Eve <u>Innocence before sin</u>	Unsaved Person <u>while physically alive</u>	The Believer <u>while physically alive</u>	Believer after death, <u>before the new body</u>	Believer glorified <u>in the new body</u>
Flesh – innocent	Flesh – sinful(i)	Flesh – sinful(i)	Flesh – nonexistent	Flesh – glorified
Spirit – innocent	Spirit – unrighteous	Spirit – righteous(i)	Spirit – righteous(i)	Spirit – righteous(i)

The Ministry of the Law; "What the Law can do" vs7-13

- **The Law reveals sin.** v7
- **The Law arouses sin.** vs8-9 ("Do Not Touch" "Do Not Touch - Wet Paint" "Keep Off the Grass")
- **The Law kills.** vs9-11 The Law can only condemn, it cannot bring about correction or relief.
- **The Law shows the sinfulness of sin.** vs12-13 Our problem is not the Law, our problem is Sinfulness. (The Rich Ruler, Mark 10:17-27, testified boldly that he had kept all the outwardly observable commandments – but Jesus revealed to him his failure on the last, the internal commandment of the heart: "You shall not covet.")

The Inability of the Law; "What the Law cannot do" vs14-25

- **The Law cannot change you.** v14 Character of the God-given Law: Holy, Just, Good, Spiritual.
- **The Law cannot enable you to do good.** vs15-21 ("It's a thermometer" – You need a thermostat)
- **The Law cannot set you free.** vs22-25 ("It's a thermometer" – You need a thermostat.)
You need the power of the Spirit! Romans 8