

VII

The Law and Sin

ROMANS 7:7–12

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”⁸ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.⁹ I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died.¹⁰ The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

READ | ROMANS 7:7-12

THINK ABOUT

Paul continues with the subject of law and its relationship with sin. In today’s society, we have almost eradicated the word “sin” — even in some churches. To mention “sin” is thought to be negative. After all “sin” doesn’t make us feel good about ourselves! But we will never have an accurate view of God’s salvation unless we have an accurate and biblical view of sin.

Without the law, we could not understand what sin is. Such is our sinfulness, that the very law which tells us not to sin may stimulate us to sin — with disastrous consequences.

But the law is “holy and righteous and good” (v. 12).

APPLY

Beware of the attitude: “No one is going to tell me what to do!”

Pray that you will have a humble, rather than a rebellious attitude.

Sometimes in accountability groups, brothers and sisters in Christ relate their failures and sins. Be careful that such “accountability” does not result in you enjoying hearing about failures in the lives of others.

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ASK

Discuss why we often seem to have an inherent rebellion against someone telling us what to do — even God! We know that God’s law is perfect, but neither our justification nor our sanctification is found in trying to obey the law.

What are some ways that you have been deceived by sin? What is the spiritual path Paul is exhorting? Have you experienced this freedom from the law of sin and death?

PRAY

Help me to love the law of Christ and not to rebel against it.

May I have a humble heart which seeks to please God rather than seeking to please myself.



SING

“At Calvary” — *Newell*

“THE LAW AND SIN”

Romans 7:7–12

A series of 25 horizontal dotted lines provided for taking notes.