

## ROMANS 7

1. What does this mean, “But where sin increased, grace increased all the more”?

-This means that the grace of God is greater than the sin of man.

2. Why has God given to us His gift of righteousness?

-So that God can save us from death.

-So that we can live in God’s righteousness.

3. What does it mean that we “died to sin”?

-It means that sin no longer has any power over us as Christians.

4. If sin no longer has any power over us, then why do Christians still sin?

-Because we do not allow our Christ to have complete control of our lives.

5. What does it mean to be baptized into Christ Jesus?

-It means to become one with Him.

6. What does it mean to be baptized into His death?

-It means that Christ’s death on the cross was our death.

7. How does Christ’s death on the cross become the death for all Christians?

-Because Christ’s death on the cross was not for Himself, but for us.

8. Who is “our old self”?

-That is us before we believed in Christ.

-That is us while we still lived in the kingdom of Adam and Satan and sin.

9. What does being buried with Christ prove?

-That we are dead to sin.

10. What does it mean that Christians are united with Christ in His resurrection?

-It means that just as Christ was resurrected, Christians are also resurrected from an old life of sin to a new life of righteousness.

11. Why is it difficult to understand that Christ has made us dead to sin?

-Because we still sin, we think that we are still living under the kingdom of Adam, sin, and Satan.

-Because we still sin, we think that we are still under Satan’s power.

-Because we still sin, we think that our spirit is still the old spirit, and not a new spirit.

-Because we still sin, we think that our current sins are proof that we are not dead to sin.

12. If we are Christians, and we are free from the power of sin, then why do we choose to sin?

-It is because of our lack of belief in God.

13. What is our greatest work in eternity?

-To believe in God.

14. Are we able to believe in God by ourselves?

-No.

-We need God's help.

-The Jews respected the laws of Moses so much that the laws became an idol to the Jews.

-The Jews respected the laws of Moses so much that the laws became their salvation.

-Instead of worshiping God who gave the Law, what were the Jews doing?

-They were worshiping the Law.

-They were worshiping their obedience to the Law.

-Instead of believing in God to save them, the Jews were believing in the Law and their obedience to save them.

-Like the laws of Moses, all other religions have their laws which they respect.

-And like the Jews, other people of other religions also respect their laws so much that their laws become an idol to them.

-God never wanted the laws of Moses to become an idol.

-God never wanted the laws of Moses to become our

salvation.

-God only wanted the laws of Moses to turn us to Him, and not to ourselves.

-Therefore, in chapter 7, God and Paul teach us that Christ has freed us from the law.

Let's read Romans 7:1

1-Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to men who know the law—that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?

-What is the purpose of any law?

-The purpose of any and all laws is to establish rules or standards by which people should live.

-All people on earth live under rules or standards.

-As long as people are living, the laws are their authority.

-Laws direct us and organize us and protect us.

-Without laws, there would be chaos in this world.

-The laws which God gave to Moses directed Israel because Israel needed direction and organization and protection just like all people.

-Where does the problem with laws begin?

-When people worship laws instead of God.

-When people look to laws for salvation instead of God.

-What is the relationship of Christians to the Law?

-Paul and God give us an example:

Let's read Romans 7:2-3

2-For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him.

3-So then, if she has sexual relations with another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress if she marries another man.

-What is the example God and Paul give us to help us to understand the Law?

-A woman and her husband.

-What are God and Paul teaching us with this example?

-When a woman is married to her husband, she is under his authority.

-If, however, her husband dies, then she is no longer under his authority.

-What is the conclusion of this example?

Let's read Romans 7:4

4-So, my brothers and sisters, you also [were made to die] to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

-What does Romans 7:4 teach us?

-That Christians were "made to die" to the Law through Christ.

-What does "made to die" mean?

-It means that Christians have been put to death.

-Who has put Christians to death?

-God.

-To what have Christians been put to death?

-To the Law.

-What does it mean that Christians have been put to death to the Law?

-That God has freed all Christians from the authority of the Law.

-What does it mean that Christians have been freed from the authority of the Law?

-That God has freed us from the burden of keeping rules in order to be accepted by God.

-God has freed us from the burden of keeping rules in order to be saved.

-All other religions except for true Christianity have a burden of keeping rules in order to be saved.

-Why is it important for us to be freed from the authority of the Law?

-Because the Law demands perfection, but gives us no help to obey it.

-Because those under the Law can never please God, and are therefore, always condemned.

-Here is an illustration:

-Let's say there was a husband who demanded that his wife do everything perfectly.

-He commanded her to:

-Always have enough wood for the fire.

-Always have food prepared for him.

-Always take care of the children.

-Always work in the house.

-Always work in the garden.

-Although her husband demanded all these things, he never helped, even if she was tired, and only condemned her when she failed.

-No matter how hard she tried, she could never please her husband.

-Why could she never please her husband?

-Because she was not perfect.

-Because she made mistakes and forgot things.

-There was a neighbor man who, although he also demanded perfection, was very kind to his wife.

-He always helped his wife to do the things which he demanded.

-He never let his wife struggle without helping her.

-Many times, the woman with the unkind husband saw the neighbor man, and wished she could be married to him.

-This was impossible because she was already married.

-She knew that only her death or the death of her husband would set her free.

-This example is all people under the Law.

-All people are like the wife of the unkind man.

-We always forget what God says and we always make mistakes.

-No matter how hard we try, we can never please God while we are under the authority of the Law.

-There is only one way that sinners can please God.

-Sinners must die to the control of the Law and then be married to the other Man, Jesus.

-What is the present position of all Christians to the Law?

-All Christians have been freed from the authority of the Law.

-What did God do so that all believers could die to the Law and be married to Jesus, the kind and helpful man?

-He sent Jesus to obey the Law perfectly and take our punishment which the Law demanded because of our disobedience.

-Because Jesus died to the Law for us, we too died to the control of the Law.

-Therefore, Paul wanted believers to understand that they are no longer married to the Law.

-To whom are believers now married?

-To the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Our whole life has been changed because we are no longer responsible for obeying the Law.

-Now, we are to completely trust in Jesus and obey Him.

Let's read Romans 7:14

14-We know that the law is spiritual; but I am [of flesh], sold as a slave to sin.

-What does Paul mean when he says that he is "of flesh"?

-This means that Paul and Christians are no longer IN the flesh, but that the flesh is still a part of our lives.

-When we believe in Christ, God takes out our old nature, and gives us a new nature.

-When we believe in Christ, God takes out our old heart of sin, and gives us a new heart of Christ.

-Yet, sin and the world and Satan continue to bother us.

-Here is an example:

-You live inside a dirty house, filled with sin, death, and Satan.

-Then, one day, God comes into your house and completely cleans it, throwing sin, death, and Satan out the door.

-The problem is this:

-Sin remains outside our door, and continues to knock on our door.

-Death remains outside our door, and continues to knock on our door.

-Satan also remains outside our door, and continues to knock on our door.

-What did God say to Cain after He refused Cain's sacrifice, and Cain got angry?

-God said, "Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

-Sin, death, and Satan remain outside our door, continuing to bother us.

-Our old ways and old habits remain outside our door, continuing to bother us.

-This is the meaning that Christians are no longer IN the flesh, but still OF the flesh.

Let's read Romans 7:15-17

15-I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

16-And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

17-As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

-What is Paul saying here?

-Sometimes, Paul does not do what he wants to do.

-Sometimes, Paul does what he does not want to do.

-This is true of all Christians.

-The reason that we sometimes do what we do not want to do is because of our flesh.

-The reason that we sometimes do not do what we want to do is because of our flesh.

-Our flesh remains outside the door, helping us to do what we do not want to do, and not to do what we want to do.

-In Romans 7:17, what does Paul say?

-“As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.”

-What does this mean?

-Paul is saying that if he does what he does not want to do, and does not do what he wants to do, then it is sin living in him.

-If Christ has given us a new heart, and the old heart is crucified, then how can sin live in us?

-If Christ has cleansed our house, and thrown sin, death, and Satan out the door, then how can sin live in us?

-This truth is one of the most difficult to understand.

-Yet, God and Paul are talking about our flesh, and the sin of our flesh.

Let's read Romans 7:18-20

18-I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my [flesh]. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

19-For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

20-Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

-In these three verses, God and Paul are teaching us more about our flesh.

-While Christ in us is our holiness and our righteousness, there is nothing good about our flesh.

-This does not mean that we have two natures inside us.

-We have already learned that our old self has been crucified with Christ, and that we are new beings.

-This only means that there is nothing good about our flesh, our old habits, our old ways.

Let's read Romans 7:21-23

21-So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

22-For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

23-but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

-In Romans 7:21, Paul reminds us that evil and sin are close to us, even when we want to do good.

-Yet, in the next verse, Romans 7:22, God and Paul remind us that our inner beings delight in God.

Let's read Romans 7:24-25

24-What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

25-Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's

law, but in the [flesh] a slave to the law of sin.

-What did Paul mean when he said his “body of death”?

-Paul was talking about his flesh.

-Why did Paul cry out that he was wretched?

-Because the closer we come to God, the more we see the sinfulness of our flesh.

-Before people believe in Christ, they do not see their sin as God sees their sin.

-Before people believe in Christ, people even believe that they have not sinned against God.

-When people first believe in Christ, they begin to see their sin as God sees their sin.

-When people first believe in Christ, they begin to see how evil their sin is.

-The more people believe in Christ, the more people see His holiness.

-The more people see Christ’s holiness, the more people see how evil their sin is.

-This is why Paul said that he was wretched.

-It is because Paul believed very much in Christ, and saw very much the holiness of Christ, and, as a result, saw very much how evil even one sin was before God.

-The degree to which you see the holiness of God will be the same degree to which you will see your own sin.

-If you see the holiness of God only a little, then you will see the evil of sin only a little.

-If, however, you see the holiness of God a lot, then you will see the evil of sin a lot.

-Did Paul know who had already rescued him?

-Yes.

-If we believe in Christ, Jesus has not only already rescued us from eternal death, but will rescue us one day from our flesh, our “body of death.”

-What happens when we are free from the Law?

-We are no longer under the control of having to obey the Law.

-We are no longer under the control of sin, death, and Satan.

-We are now free to allow God to control our lives.