

ROMANS 7

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE LAW



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Theme 1

We are not bound by the Law of the Old Testament

,my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead...(Romans 7:4 ESV)

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. (Romans 7:6 ESV)

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ... Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions,

... "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (Colossians 2:16, 18, 21 ESV)

These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (Colossians 2:17 ESV)

Theme 2 **The Law stirs up sin in us**

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. (Romans 7:5)

... through the law comes knowledge of sin.
(Romans 3:20)

- ... the power of sin is the law. (1 Corinthians 15:56)

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."

But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. (Romans 7:7-9)

**Q: How does a commandment cause sin to
“come alive?”**

Genesis 3: Eve and the Serpent:

**A commandment gives sin a place to focus
our attention**

**Sin causes us to question God’s wisdom and
goodness**

Sin gives us reasons to disobey the law

Our relationship with God is broken

Theme 3: Romans 7:10

**We cannot be right with God by keeping
the Law because we cannot keep the Law
perfectly**

**I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a
pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the
tribe of Benjamin--a real Hebrew if there ever was
one!**

**I was a member of the Pharisees, who
demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish
law. I was so zealous that I harshly
persecuted the church. And as for
righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault
(Philippians 3:5-6 NLT)**



**'God, I thank you
that I am not like
other men,
extortioners,
unjust, adulterers,
or even like this tax
collector. I fast
twice a week;
I give tithes of all
that I get.'**

Theme 4
The Law of God is good; the problem is me

So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (Romans 7:12 ESV)

It was sin, producing death in me *through what is good*, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and *through the commandment* might become sinful beyond measure. (Romans 7:14)

The Perversity of Sin:
 It uses God's Law against Sin to make itself more powerful.

The commandments of God

>identify, define sin

>stir up rebellion in us

>give us no power to conquer
 sin

For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. (Romans 7:14 NASB95)

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (Romans 7:18 ESV)



For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

I delight in the law of God, in my inner being

I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin

**As Christians, we have a choice
whether or not to sin.**

**Do not present your members to sin as
instruments for unrighteousness, but present
...your members to God as instruments for
righteousness. (Romans 6:13 ESV)**

**Do you not know that if you present
yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves,
you are slaves of the one whom you obey,
either of sin, which leads to death, or of
obedience, which leads to righteousness
(Romans 6:16 ESV)**

**Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me
from this body of death? (Romans 7:24 ESV)**



**... the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we
do not know what to pray for as we ought, but
the Spirit himself intercedes for us with
groanings too deep for words.**

Romans 8:26 ESV

**Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**

Matthew 5:4,6 ESV



**He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more, neither shall there
be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for
the former things have passed away.**

Revelation 21:4 ESV

**"... I am a free son of God, living a normal human life.
I am dead to sin, and dead to the Law, because I am
married to Christ. His power is mine, right at this
moment. And though I may not feel a thing, I have the
power to say, "No!" and walk away and be free, in
Jesus Christ."**

--Ray Stedman