



Romans 6:14-7:12

OUR FREEDOM FROM THE LAW

Romans 7 is given to us to explain and make real the statement of Romans 6:14, that: "Sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under law, but under grace." The trouble is that we do not yet know deliverance from law. What, then, is the meaning of Law? Grace means that God does something for me; law means that I do something for God. God has certain holy and righteous demands which He places upon me; that is law. Now if law means that God requires something of me for their fulfillment, then deliverance from law means that He no longer requires that from me but Himself provides it...that in grace He does it Himself. ...The more we try to keep the Law the more our weakness is manifest and the deeper we get into Romans 7 until it is clearly demonstrated to us that we are hopelessly weak. God knew it all along, but we did not, and so God had to bring us through painful experiences to a recognition of the fact. We need to have our weakness proved to ourselves beyond dispute. That is why God gave us the Law.

—Watchmen Nee (1903-72)

In Romans 6-8, Paul focuses on our sanctification in Christ—how do we live this Christian life? What is the power that enables us to grow more and more into the image of Christ?

Three Motivations Behind Our Actions:

_____	_____	_____
I do what my flesh wants to do for my own selfish gain.	I try to do what I ought to do out of fear, guilt, or pride.	I do what my heart desires to do out of gratitude and love.

The Big Question: *Doesn't grace just encourage someone to keep sinning? Don't they need law to keep them in line?* (6:15a)

Paul's Answer: _____! (6:15b).

GRACE IS SUFFICIENT TO LEAD US TO TRUE HOLINESS

- Grace changes us at the very core of who we are (6:1-4).
- Grace joins us to Christ in an intimate union that enables His life to flow through us, freeing us from the power of sin (6:5-11).
- Grace motivates us to yield ourselves to God willingly (6:12-14).
- Grace shows us the destructive bondage of sin and the life-giving blessings of submission to God (6:15-23; Matt. 11:28-30).

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

—Westminster Shorter Catechism (1646-47)

Grace is the most powerful force in the universe. —Dr. Gerald May

Paul inserts an apology in 6:19 for his use of the slavery metaphor. The topic of slavery in Paul's day, after all, would have conjured up images of cruelty and oppression. But the Christian's enslavement to Christ puts him or her under a light yoke, a loving Master, and a life free from the oppression of legalism. No earthly image can fully represent the love and grace Christ has lavished on His own.

—Charles Swindoll

There is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship.

—David Foster Wallace

SLAVERY TO SIN	SUBMISSION TO GOD

LAW IS DEFICIENT TO LEAD US TO TRUE HOLINESS

- Our Death to the Law (7:1-6)

- We were once _____ to the law, being under its unrelenting demands for perfection (7:1-3).
- In Christ, our old self died, freeing us from the law (cf. 6:1-11).
- In Christ, our new self is raised to life, joining us to Christ in a new, intimate, eternal _____ (7:4).
- In Christ, we are free, under grace, to bear fruit to God and to serve Him in the newness of the Spirit (7:4, 6).

- The Deficiencies of the Law (7:7-11)

In 7:7, Paul shifts to the first person. He begins to tell his own personal testimony with the law. Paul was a Pharisee of Pharisees. He had personal experience with trying to pursue holiness and righteousness through obedience to the law (cf. Phil. 3:3-7). But when he came to understand the perfect demands of the law, not just in his outward behavior, but in his heart, he was confronted with the stark reality of both his weakness and the power of sin.

- The law _____ sin; it does not cure it.
- The law _____ sin; it does not curb it.
- The law _____ the sinner; it does not save him.

- The Defense of the Law (7:7, 12)

The law of God is holy, righteous, and good. The problem is not with the law but with _____. I am a sinner desperately in need of grace!

Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.
—Jesus (John 8:34)

Whatever controls us is our lord. The person who seeks power is controlled by power. The person who seeks acceptance is controlled by acceptance. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the lord of our lives.
—Rebecca Manley Pippert

Why do we serve? Not because the law is our master and we have to but because Christ is our husband and we want to.
—John R. W. Stott

We have a deep desire to be in charge of the world and of our lives. We want to be sovereign. Every law God lays down is an infringement on our absolute sovereignty. —Timothy Keller

Paul is speaking of the unperturbed, self-complacent, self-righteous life which he once lived before the turbulent motions and convictions of sin overtook him.
—John Murray

Covet. Greek, *epithumeo*, “to set one’s heart upon, have a desire for, long for, lust after” (Thayer).

Covetousness is idolatry.
—Colossians 3:5; cf. Eph. 5:5

Those whose lives are filled with coveting are guilty of the fundamental sin; by desiring what is forbidden, they thereby show that they treasure and delight in someone or something more than they delight in the one true God. God is not their greatest treasure thus they can scarcely claim to be true worshipers of him.
—Thomas Schreiner