



A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of April 2, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- Talk about a time you had a desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. What kept you from doing the right thing?

Romans 7:7-25

Warfare with Sin

Last week, Paul addressed the criticism that teaching that we are “not under the Law” might tempt people to twist Christian freedom and believe we can live any way we choose ([Romans 6:15-7:6](#)). However, we died to the Law to live to Christ.

This week, Paul addresses the question: So, is the Law a bad thing?

- The Law is by no means bad (7). But what does Paul tell us about the purpose of the Law?
- What does the Law show us about ourselves?
- Which Biblical commandment set in motion Paul’s spiritual death (7)? How did that work, in your own words?
- What do you think Paul meant when he said, “I was once alive apart from the law”? (9)
- Paul tells us the Law is not his killer. What is the real killer for Paul, and the rest of us?
- Can you share an experience of the Law aggravating the sin of your heart?

⁷What 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.” ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! 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.

¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

- **Is Paul talking about an unbeliever's struggle with sin, or a believer's struggle with sin? What is the evidence in the text for your answer?**
- **How would you describe the struggle depicted in this section. Do you identify with Paul's description? How so?**

- **Paul describes two forces at work in the heart of a Christian: *Delighting in God's Law, and Hating God Law (22-23)*. Can you share an example of how you engage in this battle in your own life?**
- **Paul describes the Christians' two heart cries: Discouragement: *"Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (24)* and Hope: *"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (25)*. Can you share an example of how you have uttered these cries from your own heart?**
- **Pray together in light of this week's passage.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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