

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Utterly Sinful

Passage: Romans 7:7-13

Additional passages: Deuteronomy 27:26, 28:1-2, 30:15; Galatians 3:10-14; James 1:13-14, 2:10.

Introduction: In Romans 7, Paul is talking about the purpose of God's law. In the equation of God, His law, and us, Paul clearly says that the shortcoming does not rest with God or His law. God's law simply reveals reality after all and is an extension of God's nature. The issue is with us.

Questions:

1. In Scripture, God reveals Himself to us and reveals reality to us. We learn about who He is, how He works in the world and about our place in His world. John noted that God's law is part of that revelation of reality. God's law is not arbitrary; it flows directly from His nature, revealing reality to us in broad daylight.
 - a. What do we learn about God from the law?
 - b. What do we learn about ourselves when we compare our desires, choices, words, and actions to God's law?
2. John noted that the deception of sin comes full circle when we are angry at God *because of what He requires in His law*. John called this the height of arrogance. Why is that true?
3. If you compare yourself to others around you to measure your holiness that is one thing. If you compare yourself to God, that is another matter. Every person falls short of keeping the standard revealed in God's law (Rom 3:23).

Did John's sermon show you that are guilty before Him and that you need to trust in Jesus as your Savior? Do you want to do that now?
4. 1 Timothy 2:15 tells us that there is a mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. We are undone. But not Jesus Christ. He perfectly kept God's law and died so that we might be forgiven even though we are guilty before God.

In light of this discussion about God's law, what amazes you about God's grace?
5. God's law exposes sin of external behavior and internal desire. John noted that the sin Paul is talking about in Rom. 7:7-8 is internal -- the sinful desire of coveting. James 1:13-14 affirms that the starting point of sin is desire in our heart and calls us to reject temptation before it gives birth to sin.
 - a. How is it going with rejecting temptation and turning from sinful desire before it blossoms into sin?
 - b. How is it going with confessing your sin to God and others (when appropriate) when you do sin (1 John 1:7-10, Hebrews 4:14-16)?
6. We are prone to sin, prone to wander, as the song "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" puts it. How is it going with extending love and forgiveness to others as God does to you, instead of being harsh and unforgiving?