

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

3/11/18

Text: Romans 6:14; 7:1-12 (ESV)

Title: Freedom By A New Bond

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim led us through the first part of Romans 7 as we looked at the tangled web of the gospel and our relationship with God's law. As we saw, the law is righteous and holy, and meant to show us the character and nature of God. And yet, as Paul describes, when it comes into contact with our sin and brokenness, the law only leads to death as our sinful nature uses God's own words to accuse us of sin. In our sinful state, we don't treat the law as a wonderful picture of who God is, instead we see it as a threat to our very position because we want to be our own God. So we choose one of two selfish responses; we either live our own way, trying to be free of God's demands, or we live in legalism, trying to prove our worth to God. The beauty of the gospel message is that, united to Christ, when He died we also died in Him, and were released from the bonds of the law, so that we could be bound to Him as our great husband and Lord. So, now that we are free from the bondage of the law we can finally see it for what it truly is. As Jesus sums up the Law in Luke 10 as "love for God" and "love for neighbor", we are freed by Christ to truly Love God and love His law as a way to know the heart of our great God.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. As Tim said, the law was meant to display who God is, that He is Good and Loving, and the obedience demanded from the law was always meant to be anchored in love.*
 - What Command from God have you seen yourself trying to fulfill out of burden or guilt rather than out of Love? How has that produced "death" in you?**
- 2. Like Woody in Toy Story, the Law (Buzz Lightyear) enters in and threatens our position because through it we can never measure up. And so we either respond in lawlessness or legalism, both of which are self-centered ways of living.*
 - In what areas of your life do you see lawlessness (being me and doing what I want), or as legalism (a need to meet standards and prove myself)?**
 - How has that kept you from being loving, kind, merciful and humble?**
- 3. As a way of understanding our relationship to God, Tim said that out of the overflow of the love that a man and a woman have for one another God creates a new life in the birth of a child. In like manner, out of the overflow of God's love for us, displayed in the Gospel and expressed in the law, God would produce fruit of love, righteousness and life in us.*
 - Where in your life do you most need God to produce in you a heart of love?**
 - Where do you still need to experience freedom from the accusations of the law?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship the LORD that His Law is good in that He has called us to love, as we image Him. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He backs every command with His own character.*
- 2. How have you lived breaking God's Law by your loveless-ness? Confess your lack of love to Jesus – your lack of love for Him, and your unwillingness to love others. Ask Him to put His love within you instead.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for revealing Himself as our Bridegroom. Thank Him for freeing you from the Law's (just) accusations by His death; and for securing you in a new life with Him by His resurrection.*
- 4. Who do you know that is held captive by their impulse to live for themselves? Ask the Lord to free them by His love and grace.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and insight into what it means to be married to Christ. Ask Him to drive out fear from your soul, and to grow within you His fruit of joy and thankfulness.*