

ROMANS: PART 36
APRIL 21, 1996

A Vindication of The Holy Law
Romans 7: 7-13

Outline Of Romans 7

1. Our **release** from the Law (through Justification). Rom 7:1-6.
2. A **defense** of the Law. (It is Holy). Rom 7:7-13.
3. The **weakness** of the Law (in Sanctification). Rom 7:14-25.

A Defense of the Law. Rom 7:7-13.

Question: Is the Law responsible for your sin? Vs 7a

Answer: NO! (You were the problem!)

1. The Law **reveals** sin! Vs 7.
 - ◆ You were blind to your sin until the Law revealed it. Cf. Phil 3:6; Mt 5:21ff.
 - ◆ Naturally, people do not really believe they are all that fallen.
 - ◆ Naturally, people do not see their sin as sin, only as mistakes, misfortunes, etc.
 - ◆ For example, you were blind to covetousness without the Law. Col 3:5; Mk 10:17ff.
2. The Law **provokes** sin! Vs 8.
 - ◆ The commandments of God stirred up the rebellion in your hearts! Cf. Gen 2:17.
 - ◆ The commandments of God create desires that were not even existent before!
 - ◆ This verse is clear proof of the extent of human depravity: no ability, no desire for good.
3. The Law **condemns** sin! Vs 9-11.
 - ◆ You thought you were alive. Then you realized you were dead -- you came to your end.
 - ◆ You thought you'd earn Life thru Law's promise. Then you realized you were condemned
 - ◆ You thought you understood. Then you realized sin's deception & its murder of you.
4. The Law is **holy, righteous, good.** Vs 12. (It is the very Character of God).

Question: Is the Law responsible for eternally damning you? Vs 13

Answer: NO! (You were the problem!).

1. The Law pointed out your *death-producing-sin*. It is sin that has deceived you.
 - ◆ Sin convinces us that as long as we externally keep Law we are all right
 - ◆ Sin convinces us that everything is hopeless, so we might as well go on sinning
 - ◆ Sin deceives us into thinking that the Law is impossible, unreasonable, and unjust.
 - ◆ Sin convinces us that God really doesn't have our best interests in mind w/ certain laws
 - ◆ Sin reminds us that *"after all, no one is perfect"*
 - ◆ Sin appeals to us that at least we're *honest sinners* or *noble* law-breakers (unlike others)
 - ◆ Sin makes righteousness look dull & unattractive.
 - ◆ Sin convinces us that what God clearly says is not what He really meant.
 - ◆ Sin blinds us to the consequences of our sin.
 - ◆ Sin blinds us to Christ's perfection.
2. The Law revealed just how sinful you really were ("the sinfulness of your sin").

Application.

1. The Law can never save anyone!
2. The Law tells us how desperately we need salvation through Christ!
3. Ironically, you *are* saved through Law -- the Savior kept the Law on your behalf.