

# Romans 7:7-13

## Law vs. Sin

### 1. 7:6 – Delivered from the Law

- a. “oldness of the letter” = written commandment, old testament – Col 2:14, 2 Cor 3:6,14
- b. Law = serving in oldness of the letter; Christ = serve in newness of spirit
- c. OT = letter of the law; NT = spirit of the law; Mystery of Christ = spirit w/o law.
- d. “*delivered from the law*” – which brought forth the motions of sins and death
- e. The letter (law) is contrasted with the spirit (as of God) – then, is the law sin?

### 2. 7:7 – Sin Revealed

- a. Is the law against the spirit? No, it is not the law, but sinful flesh – Gal 5:16-18
- b. “*God forbid. Nay,*” - The law is not sin, not evil, wicked, bad, nor produces death.
- c. “*I had not known*” - Paul brings himself into the text with “I” (30x)
  - i. The law gives knowledge of sin, not justification nor sanctification – Rom 3:19
  - ii. Remember, Israel would receive their inheritance by promise – Rom 4:14-15
- d. “*thou shalt not covet*” - the 10<sup>th</sup> command, uniquely directed at the hidden inner man
  - i. The law reveals, identifies, condemns sin: the true enemy – Rom 7:8, 9, 10, 13
  - ii. The law has no use for our obedience today – 1 Tim 1:7-9
  - iii. The law is a spotlight on our sin, God’s detective of righteousness.
  - iv. The light is not at fault for revealing what dwells in darkness.

### 3. 7:8-9 – Sin Revived

- a. “*taking occasion*” - Sin able to work out when the law told a sinner to “do” or “do not”
  - i. The law is like telling a fish to walk – it is not in their nature.
- b. “*wrought in me*” - How? The law was given to obey. It could not be refused (also sin)
- c. “*without the law sin was dead*” - present, but did not move, dormant - Rom 4:15, 5:13
- d. “*I was alive... once*” – Paul’s experience not condemned, not guilty of transgression.
- e. “*when the commandment came*” – instruction to not covet came to his mind.
- f. “*sin revived, and I died*” – Sin came to life, but I became guilty, operating in his flesh.
- g. The commandment had no power to prevent sin – 1 Cor 15:56
- h. The law is the strength of sin, not the source of sin and death.

### 4. 7:10-11 – Sin Slays Me

- a. “*commandment ... ordained to life*” – Gal 3:12, 21 Lev 18:5, Luke 10:25-29
- b. “*I found to be unto death*” – The outcome in me was death, a curse – Gal 3:10-13
  - i. Believers who try to live by the law discover more sin and problems. Why?
- c. “*for sin*” - not due to the nature of the law, but to the nature of sin.
- d. “*taking occasion by*” – It is not the law that was bad, but sin which deceived.
  - i. Sin enjoys death, it loves to boast of its ability – Jer 17:9, Ob 1:3
  - ii. Deceived into thinking I can do, I can live, I deserve, I can save myself.

**5. 7:12-13 – Sin Exceeding Sinful**

- a. The real answer to Rom 7:7 – We are not anti-law, we are free from the law.
- b. 7:12 – The problem is not with the law, but sin – Ps 19:8, 119:138, 1 Tim 1:8
- c. *“Wherefore, the law is holy”* – sin is to blame for working bringing forth death.
  - i. But now your holiness is in Christ -1 Cor 1:30, Rom 6:22, Eph 4:24
- d. *“and just”* – justice is you dying for your sins, but now – Rom 3:21-22
- e. *“good”* – grace doesn’t teach fear of the law, but freedom from its bondage. 2 Tim 1:7
- f. *“Was then that which is good made death unto me?”* – No, but sin worked death in me.
- g. *“that it might appear sin”* – The law to show how bad sin was in us. Success.
  - i. Exceeding sinful – not referring to Gentiles, but Rom 3:19, 9:3, Gal 3:19
  - ii. The purpose of the law was a schoolmaster, but now... Gal 3:21-25
  - iii. We don’t need sin to excel today, but Christ – Phi 3:8
  - iv. The law entered that the offence would abound, so that grace... Rom 5:21

# Uses for the Law

*“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”*  
– Romans 7:12

*“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully”*  
– 1 Timothy 1:7

1. A guide to know God’s will in time past (but not now) – Rom 2:18
2. Knowledge of God and his truth (but we now know more) – Rom 2:20
3. For reproof, rebuke, and instruction in righteousness – 2 Tim 3:16
4. To show God’s holiness, justice, and goodness – Rom 7:12
5. To show God’s forbearance (when he showed mercy under it) – Rom 2:4
6. As a righteous standard of judgment by God – Rom 2:6, 2:13, 3:5-6
7. To prove God’s wrath against men to be righteous – Rom 4:15
8. To prove all guilty (including religious Israel) – Rom 3:19, Rom 11:32
9. For the knowledge of sin – Rom 3:21
10. For making the offence abundant and manifest to all – Rom 5:20
11. For its power to bind unto death (used against the old man) – Rom 7:1
12. To make sin move, revive, and work in us (to make the shoe fit) – Rom 7:8-11
13. Making sin look exceedingly sinful – Rom 7:13
14. To administer condemnation to the lawless and disobedient – 1 Tim 1:9
15. For exposing wrong doctrines that claim we are without sin – 1 Tim 1:10
16. To administer death – 2 Cor 3:7
17. For putting people under a curse – Gal 3:10-13
18. To govern children until they are given liberty – Gal 4:2
19. To tutor children to identify sin and righteousness – Gal 4:2
20. Bringing sinners to Christ – Gal 3:24
21. As a schoolmaster showing the need for justification by faith – Gal 3:24

## The Law is Weak through the Flesh...

1. To save you
2. To justify you, to make you righteous
3. To sanctify you
4. To forgive you
5. To give you life
6. To give you the power to serve God
7. To bring forth righteous fruit