

**Week of July 5, 2020**

**Romans 7:15-25 (NRSV)**

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

<sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.

<sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

<sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.

<sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

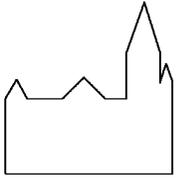
<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

<sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,

<sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.



### Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

### Gathering questions:

- A. What is a societal habit (e.g. smoking in restaurants) that you never thought would go away but did? Why do you think society was able to change?
- B. Your brain says one thing. Your heart says another. Your gut says a third. Which do you tend to follow, and under what circumstances?

### Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 17, what do you think Paul means by saying that "it is no longer I that do it"?
2. What are the kinds of things you think Paul is referring to when he speaks of good, evil, what he wants to do or what he hates?
3. In verse 21, what do you think Paul means by saying that "evil lies close at hand"?
4. In verse 23, why does Paul differentiate his "members" from himself?
5. How do you understand the difference between conscience and guilt? How can you maintain your conscience while letting go of guilt?
6. Where are your struggles when it comes to doing what you know you ought to do? Are there any such struggles in your past that you have overcome? How?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about specific areas where we need to allow faith to trigger our conscience.