

Home Group Questions for week beginning November 13th.

Read: Psalm 19 and Romans 7:1-25

In Romans 6 Paul has been outlining why we need to live a holy life, (answering the charge 'shall we go on sinning that grace may increase'). In the first part of this chapter and the next he goes on to talk about how we can live a holy life. But, in between, he lingers to reflect (with Jewish believers particularly in mind) on the place **of the law** in all this.

1. In the first 3 verses Paul uses an illustration to show that the Sinai law has no authority over us and then explains it in v.4-6. 'Dying to the law' does not mean ignoring the law's importance but being released from its condemning power. How has this freedom come about?
2. In the verses that follow Paul then balances this by talking about the continuing importance of the law. Reflect for a moment on the beautiful language of the second half of Psalm 19. What does Paul say in v.7-13 is the value of the law?
3. The real problem is not the law but our own fallen and sinful nature. In what way does the law provoke and inflame us (v.8). In what ways do v.7-13 reflect the story of Adam's fall?
4. When Paul speaks using 'I' he is probably not just speaking autobiographically but speaking as a representative of all Israel. What stories of Israel illustrate v.7-13?
5. The problem of the law is not that it is a bad thing – anything but! (see v.12). But what the law cannot do *is save us* from our sinful state. This is the agony expressed in v.14-24. The law shows us what we should do (and we desire to do so) but we just can't do it! In what ways do you think we are tempted to *underplay* how impotent we are morally?
6. God's great answer is in what Christ has done (v.25) through the Spirit (v.6). Christ gives us the power to fulfil the law – i.e. to become like Christ. How does the Spirit and the law work together? Which are we in danger of under-playing?
7. To live a holy life is a constant battle. It is also something we can do victoriously (v.25). Share together some of the battles you face at the moment and pray for one another, for Christ's transforming power by the Spirit.