

# The Misused Law

**7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin?** God forbid. Nay, **I had not known sin**, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

**8** But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. **9** For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. **10 And the commandment**, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. **11** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. **12** Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment **holy**, and **just**, and **good**. **13 Was then that which is good made death unto me?** God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. **14** For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

The cue tip says do not put into your ear. We have badly misused this in our home. Other things.

What do you think of the law? Your answer is of tremendous importance to your spiritual life or spiritual death.

"Paul you are making grace into license and you are making Law into sin."

For example: Romans 3:20, 28, and 5:20 Makes the Law sound like the accomplice of sin.

Paul in chapter 6 (6:1-7:6) Paul defends *grace*. And in chapter 7 (7:7-25) he defends *law*.

Paul's answer in chapter 6 is this: No, justification by grace through faith does not lead to more sinning. On the contrary, it is the only sure and hopeful base of operations from which the fight against sin can be launched.

Paul's argument here is tremendous: (1) the Law is not sinful—it is holy, just, and good; (2) but the Law reveals sin, arouses sin, and then uses sin to slay us; if something as good as the Law accomplishes these results, then something is radically wrong somewhere; (3) conclusion: see how sinful sin is when it can use something good like the Law to produce such tragic results.

## I. "What shall we say then? Is the Law sin?" (v.7)

### A. The law is not sin. v.7

1. Not only is it not sin it is good. v.12
2. It is not only holy and just it is good!
  - a. It is not only the standard for rightness.
  - b. It expresses care because it is good. Ex. Romans 5:7  
**For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.**
    - i. Holy and just focuses on what is legal and right.
    - ii. Good - expresses that it is helpful and caring.
3. Old Testament writers seemed to love the law.
  - a. Found delight in the law. Psalm 1:2  
**2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**
  - b. Loved the law. Psalm 119:97  
**97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.**
4. In the process, sin may flare up even more than before it was exposed (that's what verse 8 says), but that does not make the one who exposes it sinful.
  - A. Sin existed before the law. Romans 5:13  
**13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.**
  - B. Examples of sin in abundance.
    - i. Drunken Noah.
    - ii. Tower of Babel.
    - iii. Brother killing a brother.
  - C. We also see justification before law. Gal 3:17  
**17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.**

## B. What DOES the law accomplish in our lives.

1. Makes us know sin. v.7
  - A. There is horrific pain from not knowing our sin. (Dr. Law diagnoses only what Dr. Grace can heal)
  - B. Exposes a sinful nature.
    - A. Sin brings about "all manner of concupiscence". Sin brings sin?
    - B. But in Paul's mind there is something beneath the sin of coveting, which is producing coveting.
    - C. We call it the sinful nature or sinful nature.
      - i. We sin because we are sinners.
      - ii. This is a result of being born in Adam. We know right and wrong and desire rebellion.
      - iii. No microscope, self help book, guru, or philosopher could have revealed to us the truth about our sinful nature.
      - iv. When the law says don't sin we learn of our sinful nature as we try our best to not sin. Our failure on the "do" level exposes our "be" level.
    - D. The law arouses sin. (v.8-9)
      - i. Strength of the sin is law. 1 Cor 15:56  
**The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.**
      - ii. Since we have a sinful nature, the Law is bound to arouse that nature the way a magnet draws steel.
      - iii. If you give us a rule we will want to break it. It is humorous and proven Biblical. **Romans 8:7**  
**Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**
  - C. Covetousness as an example. (v.8)
    - A. Why this one? I think the reason is that it is the clearest commandment dealing with the desires of our heart, as opposed to external behavior.
    - B. Coveting comes when we lose satisfaction in God and desire more. When we have eaten of all the trees of the garden and desire what is forbidden.

## 2. The Law as a school master Gal. 3:24

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

1. The law does allow us to see sin as sin and should bring us to an understanding that we NEED JESUS!
2. The law not our desires is the authority for right and wrong, good and bad.
  1. We see this in little children
  2. If we want it we should get it. If we desire it we deserve it.
3. The law comes in and says, there is a standard outside us and above us, namely God and his revealed will.
4. Before Paul learned of the law he was alive but the law brought death. (v.9)

## II. How is the law being misused. (v.10)

### A. In justification

1. The law cannot save us. It has the power to expose sin in our hearts but not the power to heal.
  - a) The law then asks the sinner, it requires the sinner, it demands and commands the sinner to do what is absolutely contrary to the sinner's will and desire.
  - b) It asks the nocturnal hour to be excited as the rooster and start its day as the sun comes up. It can change the "do" for moments at a time but it will never change the "be" for eternity.
  - c) If you want to use the law to clean yourself up before your big interview you better fulfill all of it. It is an all or nothing system. Deut 27:26, Gal. 3:10  
**26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen. Deut 27:26**  
**10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. Gal. 3:10**
2. It is sinful to break God's Law; it is doubly sinful to use God's Law to break God's Law in
3. Sin hijacks the law. (v.11)
  - a) Our sinful nature uses the law to deceive us. When sin meets the law it says.
    - (1) Ignore it. It cannot be fulfilled so why worry about it.
    - (2) Place your bets on it. You can accomplish this as well has at least 50% of the world so go for it.
    - (3) They may sound opposite but they are opposite sides of the same sinking ship.
  - b) It either offers hopelessness relieved by self-indulgence, or it offers hopefulness supported by self-righteousness.

## **B. In sanctification**

1. Paul's main point in v. 1- 6 is that the Law can only govern the living. Therefore, since the believer is dead to sin, the Law is not the answer.
  - a) Could you imagine the X-Ray technician say "I can handle that, let's give it a shot!" What is your success rate? ZERO
  - b) Crazy idea would be if the technician showed up at the funeral and offered his help.
2. The law could not provide for our sanctification because it was weak. Romans 8:3
  - a) The law cannot give life. Gal 3:21
  - b) But the Law cannot give life: it can only show the sinner that he is guilty and condemned.
3. The law cannot make you a loving person. We need a new law written on our hearts.
  - a) Believers who try to live by rules and regulations discover that their legalistic system only arouses more sin and creates more problems.
  - b) The churches in Galatia were very legalistic, and they experienced all kinds of trouble. Gal 5:15
  - c) The Law arouses sin in our nature.

## **III. What is the purpose of the law? (review)**

- A. Then why did God give the Law if it does not produce holiness? What purposes did God have in mind?
- B. The Law reveals sin (v. 7), for when we read the Law, the very things it condemns appear in our lives.
- C. The Law energizes sin (v. 8), and sin agitates in our nature.
- D. The Law slays the sinner and deceives him (vv. 9-11), making him realize that he is too weak to meet God's standard.
- E. The Law reveals the sinfulness of sin (v. 13), not just our outward actions, but especially our sinful attitudes.

## IV. So what are we supposed to do concerning the law?

### A. Unbeliever

1. We must die to the law to be accepted by God (justification, 3:28) *not* because the law is sin or poison. It's because in our dreadfully sinful condition we must have Christ for the ground of our justification.
2. You may know there is such a thing as sin; but they do you realize the sinfulness of sin. (v.12-13). The LAW today should help awaken you to this truth.
3. Die to the Law and live to God through the crucified and risen Christ. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the remedy. (Romans 1:16).
- 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
4. It is the only message in the world that gives hope to both the ungodly self-indulgent and the ungodly self-righteous.
5. **Sinner** you need the great Physician. This is why Jesus died in our place and rose again and sends the Holy Spirit into the world and offers us forgiveness for rebellion, and justifies by faith in Jesus Christ.

### B. Believer

1. We must die to the law to bear fruit for God (sanctification, 7:4-6) *not* because the law is sin or poison. It's because in our dreadfully sinful condition we must have Christ for the power of our sanctification
2. The goal of that Law is "Christ for righteousness for all who believe" (10:4).
3. The fruit of love inspired by Christ (7:4) is a fulfillment of the Law (13:10).
4. Sanctification is made possible by the "law of the Spirit of life found in Christ"  
**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
5. It is not by turning to the law that we fulfill the law and lead lives of love, it is by turning to the living Christ. **Romans 8:9-10** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
6. It is not that we should not fulfill the law but that the law is being fulfilled. It is being fulfilled in through us. Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
  - a) You walk by the Spirit when your heart is resting in the promises of God.
  - b) You walk in the Spirit when you live a life of faith and do not scheme when times get tough.
  - c) You walk in the Spirit when you praise God when others do not see by faith what you see about His goodness in a hard time.

## 7. MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION - HOW

- a) Faith produces love. Faith pushes out guilt, fear, envy and all the other works of the flesh. Gal. 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; **but faith which worketh by love.**
- b) By meditating on the trustworthiness and preciousness of God's promises until our hearts are free of all fretting and guilt and greed.
- c) Live BY FAITH **Gal. 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
- d) Stop trying to fill the emptiness of your lives with a hundred pieces of world, and put your soul at rest in God.