

# Romans 27 - Law: Reveals Sin Within

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Romans 7:7-14

## Prologue: All Born Married to Sin

The Scripture is clear: all are conceived in sin, all are born in sin and thus married to sin: one nature  
(Ps 51:5; Mt 22:23-33)

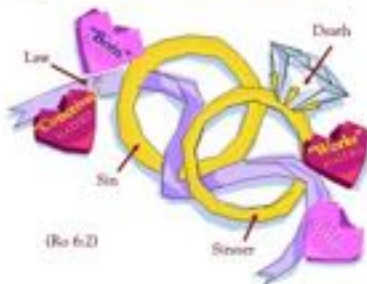
The implication is clear: There is no divorce from sin

The implication is clear: There is no adultery as sin will not let you go nor will Christ accept one in adultery and condone sin; He cannot compromise His nature

Our true desire is for sin though the result is death: spiritual and physical; now and eternally (He 1:13-15)

## Prologue: Marriage as Reality

Married: Sin/Law/Death → Married: Christ/Spirit/Father



## Prologue: Death–The Only Escape

Paradox: Death the only way to separate from sin, however, is to die in sin: thus remaining in sin *eternally*

Paul explains that when Christ *died*, was separated from the Father and punished for sin, we were there *substitutionally*; this is applied at salvation with the death of the *old man* and the birth of the *new nature* (Co 2:11-14)

Death freed us from marriage to sin, Law, and death allowing us to marry Christ: Salvation (1Co 15:55-57)

This is why the phrase, born again, is not as correct since it does not specify what is reborn. Sin! Rather, born from above specifies a new birth bearing the nature of the Trinity

## Is the Law Sinful?

Fundamentally this questions asks if the Law is sinful since it arouses sin? Paul says no!

This is like cursing the torch because it reveals in the darkness what was not previously seen!

The mistaken assumption is that sin was not present before the Moral Law revealed its presence

Sin was always present; i.e., all people died, curse of sin, before the Law was given (Ro 5:14)

## Sin as Damocles Sword

- Without the Law, people lived under the ever-present threat of sin's death without understanding their peril
  - Cain was the initial example, being guilty of murder before the law, commandment, do not murder; thus, his life was not required but all who murdered after him came under the death penalty (Ge 4:10-16)
  - This was codified in the Moral Law though already in existence since Cain; Lamech tried to justify his killing (Ge 4:23-24)

## Law Reveals Sin

This is one of Paul's foundational statements helping us to understand the interaction between Law & works

Man erects a worldview devoid of God's truth, sin's death, with each person the *hero* of their own story

Each worldview is crafted so each person appears *good* despite their thoughts, words and deeds rejecting God

Law reveals each person's sin(s) and cannot be ignored; but there is another process at work through the Law

## Law Reveals Sin Within

As Law reveals the sin within, our worldview redefines ourselves as *good*

Thus, sinful self does not willingly admit one's sin

Sinful self finds another use for the Law: **Works**



## Law Condemns

Once the Moral Law revealed one's sin there was a transformation

Sin came alive; i.e., one could no longer ignore one's sinfulness or sins with their tendrils in all aspects of life

The myth of innocence, or at least of justification that excused guilt, was dispelled: Guilt - Truth of one's sin

One knew they were under the threat of judgment regardless of one's justification: Guilt

## Covetousness the Example

- Covetousness is the base of all sin while *lust of the eyes*, *lust of the flesh* and *pride of life* are sin's methodologies (1Pe 2:15-17)
- Paul uses the universal sin of covetousness as the example of how the Law reveals sin at work throughout every aspect of one's life
- Works-religions are designed to destroy guilt and keep one's worldview intact: myths or scientisms

## Law Does NOT Produce Death

It is not the Law that produces death; that is the purview of sin alone

Law demands death because of sin but it is the sin itself which produces death; i.e., Law reveals the presence of sin, guilt acknowledges one's sin and impending sentence of eternal death (Ro 20:11-15)

Law is God's mercy less people stay ignorant of sin and die without the Gospel; sinner perverts Law to works

## Must Be Lost to Be Saved

One of my primary maxims is that a person must get *lost* before he, or she, can be saved

Law performs this function and its attendant guilt drives a person, via the Holy Spirit, to repentance (Election)

Or, one seeks to remove the guilt and thereby remove God's warning sign of imminent destruction; this *sears* the conscience so one sins without the deterrent of guilt (Lost) (1Ti 4:12)

## Law Reveals Inner Sinner

The sinful self one hides from the world and often even from one's self

Through Law our sinful self stares back at us

Scientism seeks to make this to be the good self



## Law Condemns But...

- Herein is the trap: Once one realizes Law reveals one's sin and its attendant sentence of death, one seeks to satisfy the Law via Works producing self-righteousness
  - Lost cannot submit to the Law; they seek to use the Law justifying themselves just as Lamech sought to justify his killing of a young man who only wounded him
  - This perverts the purpose of the Law becoming a heavy burden that cannot justify the sinner; only condemning

## How Sinners Use Law

Sinners seek to use the Law via Works to remake their image into goodness

This is self-delusion or psychotic

Jews, and Paul, defined their rightness via Law-Works: *Synagogue of Satan*



## Paul Understood Seduction...

Paul understood the seduction of Law-Works to please God; in reality, one substitutes one's sin for His good (Ph 3:4-7)

Trying to meet the points of the Law, Paul, and all who live by works, justify themselves as righteous

This self-delusion remains unless confronted by the Spirit and God's Word (Written and Christ) (Je 1:1-5)

Logos and word reveal the truth of works-righteousness; one's father is the Devil; they remain *married* to sin (Je 8:40)

## Sin if Sinful

Law reveals sin as sinful; beyond our *comprehension* (Je 17:9)

Law reveals the God's standard of thoughts and deeds

Sinner cannot meet that expectation finding he, or she, cannot control their sinful mind/flesh (Je 4:6-7)

As more control is tried the more one discovers the extent of sin in all areas of one's mind and life

Works exacerbates guilt showing one is out of control (Ga 5:19-21)

## Epilogue: Law Reveals Sin Within

- As Law reveals the sin within our worldview redefines ourselves as good
- Sinful self does not willingly admit one's sin
- Sinful self finds another use for the Law: Works



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## Epilogue: How Sinners Use Law

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This is self-delusion or psychotic

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## Paul Reveals – It's the Flesh

Though the Law is spiritual, of God, and thus good; man is of sinful flesh which never submits to God

(Ro 8:5-8)

Flesh betrays (sold) [παρασκευα, *parasko*] us, keeping us in sin though now married to Christ; we are to control sin via the Holy Spirit, and the Word (Co 4:6-7; He 5:14)

This dichotomy all Christians understand, and which Paul will detail in our next lesson (Co 5:17)