

Sin and the Law

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 7:7-13.

B. The good news is that Jesus Christ came to save sinners. (2 Peter 3:9)

C. The theme of Romans is that men are made right by faith.

D. There are certain results of justification by grace.

1. There is security.

2. There is holiness.

3. There is freedom from bondage of the law.

E. The essential words of this chapter are grace and faith.

II. The Jews were threatened by taking away the law by grace because they thought one was taking away the safeguard of holiness.

A. The Jews summarized the law to 613 laws.

B. The Old Testament teaches that anyone who did not do the entire law would be cursed. This is why the Jew felt so bound to the law. (Deuteronomy 27:26)

C. Paul understood that anyone who did not keep the entire law all the time was cursed. (Galatians 3:10)

D. James understood that one must keep the whole law also. (James 2:10)

E. Jews held onto works in their pride and refused to fulfill the law through faith.

III. Paul taught that believers are no longer under the curse of the law because Christ became a curse for us.

A. The law cannot save us.

B. The law cannot sanctify us.

C. The law cannot condemn us if we are in Christ.

D. The law can convict us of sin.

E. The law cannot deliver us from sin.

F. The law can be fulfilled by the power of the Spirit.

IV. God gave the law so that it would convict us.

A. The law reveals sin.

1. This law refers to the moral law of God.
2. The law shows us what sin is by God's definition. (Romans 4:15; 5:13)
3. Paul was zealous for keeping the law. (Galatians 1:14, Philippians 3:5)
4. Jews had externalized the law in order to fulfill it, but the law applies itself on the inside showing Paul that he was helpless.
5. The law is internal shown by the command not to covet.
6. Sin corrupts the man in his inner being.

B. The law aggravates sin.

1. Sin is launched by the commandment.
2. One sees what sin is when the law aggravates it and is brought to his or her need for Jesus Christ.
3. The law is not the problem—people are. (Galatians 3:21)

C. The law devastates and destroys a man.

1. Hopes and dreams are devastated through revelation.
2. There is a loss of security and identity.
3. One looks for a way out of the tremendous guilt.
4. God wants to bring a person to a place of helplessness.
5. The law can bring life if one obeys God in the power of the Spirit as a Christian.
6. Sin deceived by leading him to expect one thing but getting another. Rule keeping leads to disillusionment.
7. Sin deceives by making people believe they can gain God's favor by their own works. (Ephesians 4:22, Hebrews 3:13)

D. The law reflects the sinfulness of sin.

1. The law is good. It is not the law's fault that someone is convicted.
2. The law promotes man's highest blessedness because it reveals man's need for a savior. (Psalm 19:7)
3. The reason that sin is preached against is so that sin may be seen to be what it is.

4. Sin is so sinful that it can pervert the purest things.

V. The law came to show that man needed a savior and so fulfill the promises of God. (Galatians 3:13)

VI. The law still plays the same role in the Christian's life of conviction. We need to turn and repent when we are convicted.

Application Questions:

1. Why is it important to know that the law refers to God's moral law in Romans 7?

2. If man cannot fulfill the law, why is it important?

3. How should a Christian relate to the law after conversion? Explain.
