Lesson 8 Romans 7:7-25

Our Struggle With Sin

1. What is different in us as believers that wasn't there when we were under the law (vs. 5-7)?

5 For when we were in the flesh, our sinful passions, awakened by the law, worked in our members to bear fruit for death.

6 But now we are released from the law, dead to what held us captive, so that we may serve in the newness of the spirit and not under the obsolete letter.

7 What then can we say? That the law is sin? Of course not! Yet I did not know sin except through the law, and I did not know what it is to covet except that the law said, “You shall not covet.”

2. In your experience, how does a command not to do something provoke a desire to do it anyway?

3. What are at least four ways the law ministers to us today (vs. 7-13)?

7 What then can we say? That the law is sin? Of course not! Yet I did not know sin except through the law, and I did not know what it is to covet except that the law said, “You shall not covet.”

8 But sin, finding an opportunity in the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetousness. Apart from the law sin is dead.

9 I once lived outside the law, but when the commandment came, sin became alive;

10 then I died, and the commandment that was for life turned out to be death for me.

11 For sin, seizing an opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and through it put me to death.

12 So then the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

13 Did the good, then, become death for me? Of course not! Sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin, worked death in me through the good, so that sin might become sinful beyond measure through the commandment.

4. How did the law create in Paul a vivid awareness of sin?

5. Why then is it wrong to blame the law for our sinful behavior?

6. According to verses 14-20, why does Paul feel so wretched?

14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold into slavery to sin.

15 What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate.

16 Now if I do what I do not want, I concur that the law is good.

17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

18 For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh. The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.

20 Now if [I] do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

7. Why do you think God's law was given to us to follow using vs.10-22 to support your answer.

A. as a means to be closer to Him

B. as a guide to follow

C. as a stumbling block, impossible to follow

D. it points the sinner to God's grace

8. How can a person's anguish and struggle with sin be beneficial (vs. 24-25)?

24 Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, I myself, with my mind, serve the law of God but, with my flesh, the law of sin.

9. Challenge Question: What is the role of the Holy Spirit today?