

Romans 7:4-8 • “Apart From The Law, Sin Lies Dead”

Romans 7:4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, **so that** you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, **in order that** we may **bear fruit for God**.

*Romans 7:5 For while **we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.***

Romans 7:6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, **so that** we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

*Romans 7:7 What then shall we say? **That the law is sin? By no means!** Yet if it had not been for the law, **I would not have known sin.** For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, **“You shall not covet.”***

*Romans 7:8 **But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness.** For apart from the law, sin lies dead.*

Romans 7:5 + Romans 7:7-8

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“our sinful passions”

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

James 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is **lured and enticed by his own desire.**

James 1:15 Then **desire** when it has conceived **gives birth to sin**, and **sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**

James 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

James 1:17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

1John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1John 2:16 **For all that is in the world**—the **desires** of the flesh and the **desires** of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1John 2:17 And **the world is passing away along with its desires**, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Ecclesiastes 1:14 I have seen everything that is done **under the sun**, and behold, **all is vanity** and a **striving after wind.**

Romans 3:16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

Romans 3:17 and the way of peace they have not known.”

Isaiah 55:2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which **does not satisfy?** Listen diligently to me, and **eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.**

“aroused by the law” + “produced in me all kinds of covetousness”

1Timothy 1:8 Now we know that **the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,**

1Timothy 1:9 understanding this, **that the law is not laid down for the just...**

Romans 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are **under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped**, and the whole world may be **held accountable to God**.

Romans 3:20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since **through the law comes knowledge of sin**.

Romans 5:20 Now the **law came in to increase the trespass**, but where sin increased, **grace abounded all the more**,

“Near our vineyard there was a pear tree, loaded with fruit, though the fruit was not particularly attractive either in color or taste. I and some others...youths conceived the idea of shaking pears off this tree and carrying them away. We set out late at night...and stole all the fruit that we could carry. And this was not to feed ourselves; we may have tasted a few, but then we threw the rest to the pigs. Our real pleasure was simply in doing something that was not allowed. I had plenty of better pears of my own; I only took these ones in order that I might be a thief. Once I had taken them I threw them away, and all I tasted in them was my own iniquity, which I enjoyed very much”

Confessions, Book II, chapter 4

“In a perverse way all men imitate you (God) who put themselves far from you... What then was it that I loved in that theft of mine? In what way, awkwardly and perversely, did I imitate my Lord? Did I find it pleasant to break your law... unpunished...and so producing a darkened shadow of omnipotence? ...Could I enjoy what was forbidden for no other reason except that it was forbidden?”

Confessions, Book II, chapter 6

The essence of sin is the desire to be God. We express this in breaking his law and we express it in trying to justify ourselves.

Romans 7:4 + Romans 7:6

Romans 7:4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

Romans 7:6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 6:1 **What shall we say** then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

Romans 6:2 By no means! How can we who **died to sin** still live in it?

Romans 6:14 For **sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law** but under grace.

Romans 6:15 What then? **Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?** By no means!

The concern: If I thought I was saved totally by grace and could not be rejected, I'd lose all incentive to lead a holy life.

The problem with the concern: If you believe no law means you will sin more then the motivation to not sin under the law must be fear. Fear of rejection, fear of punishment, etc.

1John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with **punishment**, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no **condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:7 For one who has died has been **set free from sin**.

Romans 6:12 **Let not sin therefore reign** in your mortal body, **to make you obey its passions**.

Romans 7:4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have **died to the law** through the body of Christ, **so that you may belong to another, to him** who has been raised from the dead, **in order that** we may **bear fruit for God.**

We are able to bear fruit because we belong to Jesus, who has been raised from the dead. We used to belong to the law, now we belong to Jesus because we have died to the law through the body of Christ.

Romans 7:6 But now we are released from the law, **having died** to that which held us captive, **so that** we serve in the **new way of the Spirit** and **not in the old way of the written code.**

We serve in the new way of the Spirit because we have been released from the law, having died to the law, the written code, which held us captive.

Romans 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, **in order that**, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **we too might walk in newness of life.**

Romans 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, **but you have received the Spirit** of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, **God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts**, crying, "Abba! Father!"

**"Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food."**