

The Law of God

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Romans 7:7-13

The focus of these verses is the law. How do you think about the law (Archaic, Obsolete, for the OT Times) However, it is necessary for us to come to know Christ and for us to follow Christ!

Romans 7:7–13, *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.”* **8** *But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. **9** I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. **10** The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. **11** For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. **12** So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. **13** Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.*

- Three divisions of Law (see our relationship to these three divisions as a believer)
 - **Ceremonial Law** – the sacrificial system (priests, offerings, animals, tents & temples, implements, etc.)
 - **Civil Law** – how a society is to function as a Theocracy. Western civilization is based on civil law of Jewish law.
 - **Moral Law** – rooted in 10 commandments.

I. The Expected Question (Romans 7:7a)

- A. Is the Law sin (as in a realm/reign)? It is a fair question and Paul anticipated it by asking it himself. In other words, does the law cause man to sin?
- B. Is the law destructive, reigning over us. Is it a slave master doling out payment with the currency of death and decay?
 1. Provokes sin in us (The law (God) says don’t do it, we do; then do it, and we don’t)
 2. **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.*

II. The Emphatic Denial (Romans 7:7b)

- A. By no means!
- B. Strongest possible denial.

III. The Explicit Answer (Romans 7:7c)

- A. **The Law Exposes Sin** (Romans 7:7c) No one is saved without knowing their sinful condition. The knowledge of sin is necessary to come to faith in Christ.
 1. This was Paul’s testimony of how the law worked in his life, *“I had not known lust, except the law had said...”*
 - a) **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.*
 2. We do know sin by our conscience, but the law reveals the depth, depravity, and ugliness of sin without the law.
 3. Matthew 19:16-26; the rich young ruler. Jesus used the law, for the rich young ruler to see his need for salvation. (The law made sin “alive”)
 - a) **Romans 4:15**, *For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.*

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- b) **Romans 5:13**, *For sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.*
 - c) **Romans 5:20**, *Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*
 - 4. The Personal Example of how the law reveals sin (Romans 7:7d) “*I would not have known what it is to covet....*” **Covet** – set your heart upon something (good or bad). Lust after with greed (evil craving). Too long for something. Discontentment with what I have. Not being content in your current state.
 - a) You shall have no other gods before me (Ex 20:3) (not a pagan; go to church)
 - b) You shall not make for yourself a carved image (Ex 20:4) (I don’t have those).
 - c) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain (Ex 20:7)
 - d) Remember the Sabbath day (Ex 20:8)
 - e) Honor your father and your mother (Ex 20:12)
 - f) You shall not murder (Ex 20:13)
 - g) You shall not commit adultery (Ex 20:14)
 - h) You shall not steal (Ex 20:15)
 - i) You shall not bear false witness (Ex 20:16)
 - j) You shall not covet (house; another’s wife; possessions; anything not yours) (Ex 20:17)

B. The Law Revives Sin (Romans 7:8)

- 1. Sin – “to miss the target.” “miss the mark;” An arrow misses the target.
- 2. Seizing an opportunity (army setting up a base to launch attacks)
- 3. Through the commandment: the commandment aroused sin; makes it known; **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.*
 - a) Brings sin out in the open
 - b) Coveting of every kind.
 - (1) Prestige
 - (2) Popularity
 - (3) The law makes you want it more.
- 4. Sin lies dead: lies dormant in the heart. Until the law says you can’t. We respond and say we will

C. The Law Reveals Death (Romans 7:9-11)

- 1. I was good until the law (9a) Phil 3:6 – Blameless. Phil 3:4-5
- 2. When the law came “as arriving at a location” – I died (divine judgement – Hell).
- 3. That which promised life (how to live) produced death (Romans 7:10).
- 4. Sin deceived me (Romans 7:11) Genesis 3:13

IV. The End Matter (Romans 7:12-13)

- A. The Law is Holy (inerrant infallible inspiration) (is-present tense)
 - 1. Holy
 - 2. Righteous
 - 3. Good
- B. Sin brings death
- C. The Commandments demonstrate sin’s exceedingly sinful. God is more concerned by purity and heart, than place and location.