

Struggle with Indwelling Sin

Romans 7; Coast School of Theology; Pastor Earl Miles; 1-19-2020

The Importance of Identity

Who are you? What defines you?

Romans 6-8 has a lot to say about the issue of sin in light of our identity in Christ.

So if Jesus came to free us from the penalty of sin, what should we think about sin now?

Romans 6

Should we be concerned about sin as believers in Jesus?

- We should not be content to live in sin or commit sin even though we are sinners saved by grace alone through faith alone. (6:1, 15)
- Because we have been united to Christ who died to set us free from the reign of sin. (6:2-10)
- Because we have been called to present our lives to God for obedience. (6:11-18)
- Because sin brings death and cannot deliver what it promises. (6:19-23)

Romans 7

If we are free from sin, then why do we still sin?

Summary of Romans 7

- We have been set free from the Law. (1-6)
- But the Law is good. (7-12)
- The problem is indwelling sin. (13-20)
- We should expect war! (21-25)

Freedom from the Law (1-6)

The 'rule of sin' plus the 'rule of Law' bears fruit for death.

Freedom from the 'power of sin' plus freedom from the 'penalty of sin' bears fruit for God.

- Law played a necessary role prior to Christ.

- Death can change one's relationship to the Law.
- Our death to the Law has the purpose of a new freedom. (quoted by Leon Morris)

Note: Law is Romans 7 can be ...

- Law in general
- God's moral law (10 commandments etc)
- A controlling principle (rule of action)

The Base of Operation (7-12)

The problem is not the Law but sin.

'opportunity' in verse 8 is 'that from which an attack is launched, a starting point or a base of operations' (Leon Morris)

Indwelling Sin (13-20)

Freedom from the rule of sin and the rule of Law does not mean immediate freedom from indwelling sin.

Believers ...

- Have died to sin (6:2) and have died to the Law (7:4)
- Are free from sin (6:18) and are free from the Law (7:3)
- Are released from sin (6:7) and released from the Law (7:6)
- Walk in newness of life (6:4) and serve in the newness of the Spirit (7:6)
- Are not under the rule of sin and are not under the rule of Law
- Have been made to die to the Law as a way of salvation/basis for judgment or condemnation/curse of the Law/rigid demands of the Law/legalism
- Enjoy, through the death of Christ, the death of the Law as an end to trust in the Law

The Ongoing War (21-25)

- We should expect an ongoing war with indwelling sin.
- Believers are free from the rule of sin but not free from indwelling sin.
- Believers are free from the condemnation of the Law but not free from obedience.

So what makes the difference in saints who are free from sin and yet not free from sin?

The indwelling Spirit. (Romans 8)