



The Mortal Weakness of the Law

Romans 7

Something to Start Us Off

- Can you think of a case where the creation of rules only created more violations of those rules rather than conformity to the standard?

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 7 slowly and mark a few phrases that tell us something important. Here are some that might stand out to us.

- 7:4 *Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ*
- 7:12 *So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*
- 7:14 *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.*
- 7:18 *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*
- 7:22 *For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being.*

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* There is nothing wrong with the law, nor is there anything wrong with God for giving us the law. The problem lies in us. The law itself was never designed to give us the power to keep it.

Discussion Questions:

- How well can you relate to Paul's struggle against sin in this chapter?
- In 7:1-6, Paul describes what it means to be released from the law through death. Can you try to explain his point in your own words?
- The law is clearly not much help in overcoming sin. Why not? What then would you say is the law's purpose?
- In what ways does this chapter highlight our need for God's grace?
- Read 7:24-25. What do you see here that provides hope in our battle against sin?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 7:24-25a this week. This is the classic struggle of the person who is trying to live under law who then finds victory in Christ.