

Series: Freedom

Message: Free To Struggle, Part 1

Scripture: Romans 7:14-25

Teacher: Randy Pope

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- 1) Christians are dead to sin and alive to God and His Spirit.
- 2) Christians must appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit by considering these truths and surrendering their body and its members to God as instruments of righteousness.
- 3) Until becoming a Christian, every person is married to The Law.
- 4) Though The Law is good, it is a terrible marriage partner, bringing condemnation and death to its spouse.
- 5) Once divorced from an abusive relationship with The Law, one can serve God in a newness of the Spirit.
- 6) The goodness of the Law is seen in that it exposes, provokes and condemns sin.

Law – Grace = Abusive Spouse

Law + Grace = Best Friend

Romans 7:14-25

¹⁴ For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

¹⁶ But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.

¹⁷ So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

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

²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

1. Every Christian Lives With An Enemy.

Romans 7:17

17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

Romans 7:20

20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

Galatians 5:17

17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Martin Luther

When I became a believer, I thought I had drowned the old nature in me, but the rascal knew how to swim.

2. Every Christian Shares A Common Struggle.

Next Week:

3. Every Christian Has Only One Hope For Deliverance.

Romans 7:24-25

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.