

Romans 7 Dying to Live
12/6/2009 - The Exchange

- I. Running start
 - A. Romans 1-3 tearing down false preconceptions
 - B. Romans 4-6 rebuilding correct preconceptions
 - C. Romans 7+ application and differences
 - D. Seems like Paul has either been focusing on big picture concepts, or on just "me". What about all the other stuff happening in the world, in the lives of those around us? The means to deal with the the external things that stress us out begins with dealing with the internal which is rooted in who we are in Christ, or not. Say again later.
- II. 7:1-6
 - A. 7:1-3
 - 1. 7:1 The context and the point of the illustration. Riff on the good side of the law.
 - a) Reveals God's heart and mind.
 - b) Points us to our need for Him.
 - 2. 7:2
 - a) released - same as destroyed in 6:6, rendered inoperative
 - b) Talking about our relationship to the law, not trying to teach a marriage class.
 - 3. 7:3 Riff on purpose of marriage. Intimacy, children, example of our relationship with God. And, the overall concept of law not having effect on the dead.
 - B. 7:4-6
 - 1. 7:4 Intimate!
 - a) John 15:1-8
 - b) Luke 8
 - c) Concept of idolatry as spiritual adultery throughout word
 - 2. 7:5 Again, intimate language. The intimate nature of our spiritual lives. Why so? God is a real being with feelings and a genuine desire for relationship. Otherwise He would not have gone to all the trouble of Jesus.
 - 3. 7:6
 - a) Not a license to disobey the law and live however we want, because that's what we were already doing. Freedom to have relationship with God because of what He has done, not what we do.
 - b) The requirements of the law were not done away with, they were met in Jesus. It's still God's law, still reflects God's heart and mind, but it no longer condemns us. John 3:16-17.
 - C. Too often our problem is that we don't understand the extent of the problem and extent of the solution, and we end up living like we are married to a corpse. (Rash of that literally in the news.)
 - D. The means to deal with the the external things that stress us out begins with dealing with the internal which is rooted in who we are in Christ, or not.

III. 7:7-12 Primary audience is those who put emphasis on the law.

A. 7:7

1. If God had not told us what was right and wrong we would not have known we were doing wrong, but it still would have been wrong.
2. Best we could do pre-Jesus is obey the law with a right heart and look forward to what God was going to do, but that didn't justify us.

B. 7:8-12 Paul isn't saying that if there were no law there would be no consequences of sin. He is saying sin (noun) is in us and lives on perverting the law.

IV. 7:13-25

A. 7:13-14 The dilemma - trying to mix two natures, oil and water.

B. 7:15 The flesh vs the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-18.

C. 7:16 If the law says "don't covet" and I covet, that just demonstrates that the law is right and good.

D. 7:17-20 Is Paul deflecting responsibility? "The Devil made me do it." No. Per Rom. 5:12-21 sin is part of our nature apart from JC.

E. 7:21-23

1. What does this attempt to mix oil and water demonstrate? The reality that oil and water don't mix! Duh.
2. It shows us that the problem isn't God's law and by extension God, the problem is us, our nature.
3. Verse 7-23, what has been the focus? Me. I. Me as I try to measure up to and compete with the law.
4. Even as people who are supposed to be free from the condemnation of the law, we build new laws for ourselves to condemn ourselves and others. "A real/right Christian will/won't..." Result? Fear, doubt, arrogance, liberality, anger, judgment, hypocrisy.
5. Why? To try and alleviate the stress that exists between our two natures. Paul's whole point here is that it can't be done by means of any law or our own effort. Hence, v. 24.

F. 7:24-25

1. 7:24 deliver - rescue. Apart from Christ we need rescuing, applies to today and eternity. From what? Our dead spouse.
2. 7:25
 - a) Again, through JC. The only way.
 - b) The mind wants to do right but can't as is evidenced by the flesh. What's missing? The Spirit. Next week.

V. Wrap up

A. For those who try to find their sense of righteousness in the law, which is self righteousness, Paul's application is that it can't be done. Cannot do this on our own.

B. Does your life demonstrate that you are married to the law (your own efforts/standards), or to Jesus?

C. The means to deal with the the external things that stress us out begins with dealing with the internal which is rooted in who we are in Christ, or not. John 4, spring of living water. Spreads.