

Romans 7:14-25 MSG <sup>14-16</sup> I can anticipate the response that is coming: “I know that all God’s commands are spiritual, but I’m not. Isn’t this also your experience?” Yes. I’m full of myself—after all, I’ve spent a long time in sin’s prison. What I don’t understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can’t be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God’s command is necessary.

<sup>17-20</sup> But I need something *more!* For if I know the law but still can’t keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don’t have what it takes. I can will it, but I can’t *do* it. I decide to do good, but I don’t *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don’t result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

<sup>21-23</sup> It happens so regularly that it’s predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God’s commands, but it’s pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

<sup>24</sup> I’ve tried everything and nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn’t that the real question?

<sup>25</sup> The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

*\*All scriptures are from the NLT translation unless otherwise noted.*

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## THRIVE

The passage of scripture we are studying this week is Acts 2:1-21.

To be added to a group, email us at [thrive@rockfamilychurch.com](mailto:thrive@rockfamilychurch.com).

- Woodmen Campus (Women) - Tuesday @ 9:30a
- South Campus – Tuesday @ 6:45p
- Woodmen Campus - Wednesday @ 6:45p

# UNBOUND

## THE BOOK OF ROMANS

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Part 7: ‘til Death Do Us Part

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Romans 7:1-3 NLT Now, dear brothers and sisters—you who are familiar with the law—don’t you know that the law applies only while a person is living? <sup>2</sup> For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her. <sup>3</sup> So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries.

### 1. We were originally married to the FLESHLY sin nature.

Romans 6:23 NLT For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:4-6 NLT So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. <sup>5</sup> When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. <sup>6</sup> But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

### 2. Our second marriage is to JESUS CHRIST.

- ❖ The marriage counselor for the first marriage was the LAW. The counselor for the second marriage is the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ Under the first marriage we produced the works of the flesh. Under the second marriage we produce the FRUIT of the SPIRIT.

Galatians 5:19-23

### WORKS OF THE FLESH

- Sexual immorality
- Impurity
- Lustful pleasures
- Idolatry
- Sorcery
- Hostility
- Quarreling
- Jealousy
- Outbursts of anger
- Selfish ambition
- Dissension
- Division
- Envy
- Drunkenness
- Wild parties

### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

- ❖ You can tell who someone is in bed with by the OFFSPRING they produce in their life.

John 15:4-5 NLT Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup>“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

3. Jesus wants us to be a FAITHFUL spouse to Him!

- ❖ Sin is committing ADULTERY against Jesus, our new husband.

Romans 6:1-2a NLT Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? <sup>2</sup>Of course not!

Romans 6:15 NLT Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not!

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NLT Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?

Romans 7:7 NLT Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet."

4. The law points out the WEEDS in our life to help us identify the ROOT of our problem.

Romans 7:8-10 NLT But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. <sup>9</sup>At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, <sup>10</sup>and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead.

Romans 7:11-13 NLT Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me. <sup>12</sup>But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. <sup>13</sup>But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

5. Paul's predicament is a description of a CARNAL Christian.