

OUR STRUGGLE WITH THE REMNANTS OF SIN

ROMANS 7:7-12

THE NATURE OF MAN

- Today, we'll consider 2 main points: the law and the sinful nature.
- Emphasis is on both the intent and nature of the law

LAST WEEK

- We have died to the law
- In v. 4, we belong to God
- In v. 6, we are able to live life in the “new way,” by the Spirit
 - John 4:23

IS THE LAW SINFUL?

- v. 7 → “In view of everything I’ve told you concerning salvation apart from the law... do we conclude the law to be sinful?”
 - “By no means!”
- Saying the law was sinful/imperfect is like saying that God is at fault for our sinful problems.

V. 7

- The Law was instituted to give us knowledge of sin
 - Rom. 3:20
- The Law didn't produce sin within us; its intent was to "expose us".
 - Gen. 3:7-10

V. 8

- Our most fundamental problem has always been the existence of our sinful nature
- We possess a nature which, if unchecked, will always rise up against the righteous standard of God.
- Apart from the law, sin lies “dead” = inactive
 - Rom. 3:20; 1 Cor. 15:56

ILLUSTRATION

- A policeman was dispatched to check up on a warehouse property...

CONNECTION?

- Inactivity in warehouse = our innocence before the introduction of the law
- Policeman = an encounter with righteous law
- Presence of Rottweilers = inactivity of our sinful nature
- Dogs being roused = activity of sin in our lives after the introduction of the law

V. 9

- “when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died” → sin is aroused by the introduction of God’s Commandments
- Similar to when conviction begins to set in as a child reaches his/her age of accountability

V. 10-11

- “For sin ... deceived me...”
- The law had promised him life
- Every time, he increased in his knowledge of personal sin
- All the law can do is expose sin and direct us
- It doesn't provide sanctification, restraint, or remedy for sin

THE LAW REFLECTS GOD'S CHARACTER

- “holy”
 - It reflects the purity of God
- “righteous”
 - It reflects the equity of God
- “good”
 - It expresses the goodness of God (our wellbeing)