

# ROMANS 6-8

## Introduction

1. **Dealing with "sin" in our lives is one of the great challenges to the Christian.**
  - a. We want to be free, not only from the PENALTY of sin but also from its **POWER** .
  - b. If we define sin superficially (overt intentional acts that violate the law of God) we may be disciplined enough to experience "total victory". But this often leads to pride and legalism.
  - c. If we define sin in a radical way (motives, attitudes, selfish coping mechanisms & etc.) we seem hopelessly trapped in a state of defeat. This often leads to a half-hearted resistance to sin.
2. **In ROM.6-8 Paul addresses this problem directly.**
  - a. ROM.1:19-3:20 Man's BONDAGE TO SIN.
  - b. ROM.3:21- 5:21 Freedom from the PENALTY OF SIN.
  - c. ROM.6:1-8:17 Freedom from the POWER OF SIN.
  - d. ROM.8:18-39 Freedom from the PRESENCE OF SIN.

## A. Rom.6 Grace and the sin nature.

1. **GRACE, SIN & BAPTISM. (6:1-14)**
  - a. **The question** (6:1) - Should sin continue in our lives so that we will experience more grace?
  - b. **The answer** (6:2) - No, because we have died to sin.
  - c. **The explanation**
    1. **Knowing** (understanding)
      - a. The significance of **baptism** (6:3-5) - We are united with Christ's death & resurrection.
      - b. The significance of **our union with Christ in His crucifixion** (6:6-8) - Our "old self" died with Christ.
      - c. The significance of **our union with Christ in His resurrection** (6:9-10) - We are raised to eternal life with Christ.
    2. **Considering** (believing)
      - a. - Ourselves dead to sin (6:11a)
      - b. - Ourselves alive to God (6:11b)
      - c. We do not have to sin (6:12)
    3. **Presenting** (acting)
      - a. - Our bodies not as instruments of unrighteousness (6:13a)
      - b. - Ourselves to God as alive from the dead
      - c. (6:13b)
      - d. - Our bodies as instruments of righteousness (6:13c)
      - e. We do not have to sin (6:14)
2. **GRACE, SIN & BONDAGE. (6:15-23)**

- a. **The question** (6:15a) - Should sin continue in our lives because we are free from the penalty of the law?
- b. **The answer** (6:15b) - No!
- c. **The explanation**
  - 1. **The principle of bondage**
    - a. To sin - through yielding to sin (6:16a)
    - b. To righteousness - through yielding to righteousness (6:16b)
  - 2. **The past decision of the believer**
    - a. We have broken our enslavement to sin by obeying the gospel (6:17)
    - b. We have now become slaves of righteousness (6:18)
  - 3. **The present decisions of the believer**
    - a. As we yielded to our old master (6:19a)
    - b. So now we should yield to our new master (6:19b)
  - 4. **The product of following sin or righteousness**
    - a. Our old master lead us to death (6:20-21)
    - b. Our new master leads us to eternal life (6:22-23)

## B. Rom.7 Law and the sin nature.

- 1. **THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAW BROKEN (7:1-6)**
  - a. **Principle** (7:1) - The law applies only to the living.
  - b. **Illustration** - marriage
    - 1. Marriage to second while the first is alive = guilt (7:2-3a)
    - 2. Marriage to second after the death of the first = no guilt (7:3b)
  - c. **Application**
    - 1. Union with Christ's death = free from the law (7:4)
    - 2. Under law + sin = death (7:5)
    - 3. Dead to the law = life in the Spirit (7:6)
- 2. **THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE LAW ACKNOWLEDGED (7:7-13)**
  - a. **The purpose of the law** (7:7) - to expose sin
  - b. **The experience of Paul**
    - 1. Sin used the commandment to express itself (7:8)
    - 2. Therefore the Law brought death to me (7:9-11)
  - c. **Conclusion**
    - 1. The Law is not the problem (7:12)
    - 2. The Law came to reveal the problem as sin (7:13)
- 3. **THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW BLOCKED (7:14-25)**
  - a. **Facts about the flesh**
    - 1. My nature = flesh (7:14a)
    - 2. I am "under sin" because of the flesh (7:14b)
  - b. **Frustration with the flesh**

1. **Mans experience described**
  - a. We do what we don't want to do (7:15)
  - b. This shows that we agree with the Law (7:16)
  - c. This further shows that it is not my will but my flesh (which can do no good) that is the problem (7:17-21)
2. **Mans experience analyzed**
  - a. My "inner man" agrees with the Law (7:22)
  - b. My life is in conflict (7:23)
    - a. My mind seeks good
    - b. My members seek evil
    - c. My members win
  - c. My life is in despair (7:24)
- c. **Freedom from the flesh**
  1. **God's provision** - Christ (7:25a)
  2. **My plight**
    - a. I am serving the law of God with the "inner man" (7:25b)
    - b. I am serving the law (force) of sin with the "flesh" (7:25c)

### C. Rom.8 The Holy Spirit and the sin nature

#### 1. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER OVER SIN. (8:1-11)

*Romans 8:1-11*

<i>Saul</i>	<i>Paul</i>
<i>In the flesh</i>	<i>In the Spirit (in Christ) (Son of God)</i>
	<b>The believer's strategic position is fixed.</b>
	<p><sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God {did:} sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and {as an offering} for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,</p>
	<b>The believer's calling is dynamic.</b>
	<p><sup>4</sup> in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us,</p>
<b>Disobedience</b>	<b>The believer's tactical choices are the challenge.</b>
who do not walk according to the flesh	<b>Obedience</b>
	but according to the Spirit.

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,

6 For the mind set on the flesh is death,  
7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able {to do so};

8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

**The believer's strategic position is reaffirmed.**

9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

*Ephesians 2:8-10*

**The believer's strategic position is fixed.**

"8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

**The believer's calling is dynamic.**

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

a. **Free from the principle of sin**

1. In Christ we are not to experience condemnation (8:1)
2. In Christ we are under a new law (force) (8:2)
3. In Christ we see our "flesh" condemned in His sacrifice for us (8:3)

b. **Free from the power of sin**

1. "**walking according to the flesh / Spirit**" (8:4) - We will fulfill the demands of the Law by walking in the Spirit.
2. "**are according to the flesh / Spirit**" (8:5) - Those who are outside of Christ do not have the Spirit's power.
3. "**mind set on the flesh / Spirit**" (8:6) - The way we identify ourselves is a life or death issue.
  - a. The mind set on the flesh
    - a. Is not able to obey (8:7)
    - b. Is the mark of those who "are in the flesh" (8:8)
  - b. The mind set on the Spirit
    - a. Is the mark of those who "have the Spirit" (8:9)
    - b. Is the mark of those who have Christ "in them" (8:10)

- c. **Free from the presence of sin** (8:11) - One day even our members (mortal bodies) will have life.
2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US OUR IDENTITY WITH CHRIST. (8:12-17)**
- a. We are under obligation
    - 1. Not to live according to the flesh (8:12)
    - 2. But to put to death the deeds of the body (8:13)
  - b. We are led by the Spirit (8:14)
  - c. We are not under a spirit of fear (as we were under the Law) (8:15)
  - d. We have the witness of the Spirit with our spirit (8:16)
  - e. We are heirs with Christ (8:17)