

Running From the Law

Key Scriptures

Romans 7:6-12 ⁶ But now we have been released from the law, because we have died to what controlled us, so that we may serve in the new life of the Spirit and not under the old written code.

⁷ What shall we say then?

Is the law sin? Absolutely not! Certainly, I would not have known sin except through the law. For indeed I would not have known what it means to desire something belonging to someone else if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of wrong desires. For apart from the law, sin is dead.

⁹ And I was once alive apart from the law, but with the coming of the commandment sin became alive

¹⁰ and I died. So I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life brought death!

¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it I died.

¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good.

Key Point: God uses a holy thing (law) to reveal an evil thing (sin) so that a necessary thing (death) might result in the most important thing (life). (Kenneth Boa)

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What character of a book or movie can you think of that would best exemplify a "Pharisee" or a person who lives by the law? How about a person who lives by grace?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Read Romans 7:6-12. Paul opens this section by asking if the law is sin (v. 7). What has he said previously which might lead to this conclusion?
- How did the law create in Paul a vivid awareness of sin?
- Why is it wrong to blame the law for our sinful behavior?
- How, and why, is it helpful to be reminded that the commandments are about internal attitudes before they are about external behaviors?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Think of your own journey to faith in Christ. How do you see the truths of these verses in your own life?
- Read Psalm 19:7-11. Are there things you feel you cannot reconcile between Romans 7:6-12 and the Psalm? How can you cultivate the adoring attitude that the Psalmist had while avoiding being "under the law" and its pitfalls?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Are there any legalistic rules you are holding to in the Christian life? If so what are they? How might you cultivate by walking in the spirit instead of rule following and living by the oldness of the letter?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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