

The Struggle with Law

Key Scriptures

Rom. 7:13-25 ¹³ Did that which is good, then, become death to me? Absolutely not! But sin, so that it would be shown to be sin, produced death in me through what is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual— but I am carnal, sold into slavery to sin. ¹⁵ For I don't understand what I am doing. For I do not do what I want— instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ But if I do what I don't want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But now it is no longer me doing it, but sin that lives in me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I want to do the good, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but I do the very evil I do not want! ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer me doing it but sin that lives in me. ²¹ So, I find the law that when I want to do good, evil is present with me. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inner being. ²³ But I see a different law in my members waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that is in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Key Point: Sin is the killer, the law is the weapon, but Jesus is savior.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What was the last project you took on where everything seemed to go wrong?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Read Romans 7:13-25. Is Paul speaking in these verses of an unbeliever's struggle with sin, or is he talking about a believer's struggle with sin? What is the evidence (in the text) for your answer?
- While there are similarities between Romans 7:13-25 and Galatians 5:16-18, they are about two different things. What do you see that is similar? In what ways are they discussing something different?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- See the assignment given to you below. How do you think you will do in this assignment? Why? What will be the most difficult task? The easiest? (During the earlier part of the small group, how did you do with these prescriptions?)

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

- During the rest of this week, please keep the following “tongue assignment”. (These prescriptions come from various places in the New Testament.)
 1. Do not complain or grumble.
 2. Do not boast about anything.
 3. Do not gossip or repeat a matter.
 4. Do not run someone down — even a little bit.
 5. Do not defend or excuse yourself, no matter what.
 6. Do continually affirm others.The purpose of this assignment is to reveal your own heart to you. Most people will have trouble lasting more than 3 or 4 hours without breaking it. (Of course, if you do last longer, you can't brag to anyone of it!) This is a practical way to see the purpose of the law as Paul describes it.

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

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