



# ROMANS

Strong faith for life



- Paul wants everyone to experience the power of **good news**.

- Because of Jesus' resurrection, we have been given **power over sin**.

...where sin increased, grace increased all the more Romans 5:20 (NIV)

...have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Romans 6:3-4 (NLT)

- We can't live new lives with the **old man**.

- When we died with Christ we died to the influence of the **law**.

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. Romans 7:4 (NLT)

## Reasons for the law:

- God's laws were given to establish what **God says** is right and wrong.

God's Law was like our guide. It kept us safe until Christ came. Then God could accept us as right because we trusted Christ. Galatians 3:24

- God's law was given to **expose** our sin.

...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." Romans 7:7 (NLT)

- The law had no **power** over sin, it only directed us away from sin.

- The law aroused our **desire** to sin.

But sin (the sin within me) used this command (of God...His law) to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. Romans 7:8 (NLT)

The law started out as an excellent piece of work. What happened, though, was that sin (In Me) found a way to pervert the command (the laws of God) into a temptation, making a piece of "forbidden fruit" out of it. The law, instead of being used to guide me, was used to seduce me. Romans 7:8 (Msg)

...If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. Mark 8:34 (NLT)

- We have to die to our **love** for the sinful nature.

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. Galatians 5:17 (NLT)

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. 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. 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. 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? 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. Romans 7:14-25 (Msg)

- Paul is not sharing his struggle with sin to **excuse** his sin but to **expose** it.

- We can only overcome the flesh when we **live by the Spirit**.

## The Rebel within:

- There is a battle of **two natures** at work within us.

The heart is the most **deceitful** thing there is and **desperately wicked**. No one can really know how bad it is! Jeremiah 17:9 (TLB)

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. Galatians 5:17 (NLT)

- The rebel within us has an appetite for **sin**.

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)

- The Rebel within is not a **friend** to be played with but an **enemy** to be destroyed.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:24 (NIV)

...the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires.... Galatians 5:17



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- What is the power of the Good News? How does the good news change us?
- Talk about the "Reasons for the law". Read Galatians 3:24. What does that mean to you?
- What does it mean that the law aroused our desire to sin?
- How do we die to our love for the sinful nature?
- What is the Rebel within us? Why is it important that we are aware of the Rebel within us?
- Why do some treat the Rebel within as a friend to be played with?
- How do we continually kill the Rebel within us?

For more Talks, visit us at:  
**fresnoquest.com**

Opportunities to experience community:



Today's Talk..



The Rebel Within

Sunday, July 7th, 2024

fresnoquest.com



Scan this QR code to connect with us, discover your "Next Steps," give online and much more.