

“Life and the Law”
Romans 7:1-25

Some might say, “Since we are saved by grace, we are free to do as we please.” That is the extreme of license or libertinism. Others might say, “We must live under the Law to please God.” That is the extreme of legalism.

In Romans 6 Paul answered the first. In Romans 7, he addresses the second.

- I. The _____ of law (1-6)
 - A. Freedom from law is _____ (2-3)
 - B. Freedom from law is _____ (4-6)
- II. The _____ of the Law (7-13)
 - A. The Law _____ our sin (7)
 - B. The Law _____ more sin (8)
 - C. The Law _____ sin (9-11)
 - D. The Law _____ sin’s sinfulness (12-13)
- III. The _____ of the Law (14-24)
 - A. The law cannot _____ us to do good (14-21)
 - B. The law cannot _____ us to do good (21-24)
- IV. The _____ of the Law (25)

Do I hate my _____ and love my _____?

The law, although it cannot secure either the justification or sanctification of men, performs an essential part in the economy of salvation. It enlightens conscience and secures its verdict against a multitude of evils, which we should not otherwise have recognized as sins.

It arouses sin, increasing its power, and making it, both in itself and in our consciousness, exceedingly sinful. It therefore produces that state of mind which is a necessary preparation for the reception of the gospel . . . Before the gospel can be embraced as a means of deliverance from sin, we must feel we are involved in corruption and misery.

- Charles Hodge

The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because he knows it grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), because it dishonors God (I Cor. 6:19-20), because sin keeps his prayers from being answered (I Pet. 3:12), and because sin makes his life spiritually powerless (I Cor. 9:27). The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because it causes good things from God to be withheld (Jer. 5:25), because it robs him of the joy of salvation (Ps. 51:12), because it inhibits spiritual growth (I Cor. 3:1), because it brings chastisement from the Lord (Heb. 12:57), and because it prevents his being a fit vessel for the Lord to use (II Tim. 2:21). The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because it pollutes Christian fellowship (I Cor. 11:28-29), and because it can even endanger his physical life and health (I Cor. 11:30; I John 5:16).

- John MacArthur