

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



Freedom from Bondage to the Law

Romans 7:1-8:4

Danny Hall • February 24, 2013

The old and the new

The power of sin

The purpose of the Law

The life in the Spirit



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Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

In last week's message we explored freedom from the bondage to sin as the outcome of our transfer from the realm of sin to the realm of righteousness—to our new identity in Christ! We saw that one of the characteristics of the old realm was the Law. In this week's message we explore freedom from the bondage of the Law. But why is the Law on the side of the old realm? After all, wasn't the Law, God's Law? Isn't the Law a good thing? In chapter 7 of Romans Paul explains the role of the Law and how this good gift of God has been co-opted by sin and holds people in bondage. All of this leads to the wonderful good news that God has done for us in Christ what the Law could not do.

Engaging with each other

1. When does "Don't do it" become "I MUST do it!" in the life of a child?
2. When you were younger, who caused you to change your behavior by their powerful influence?

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read Romans 7:1-6. What are some of the characteristics of life in these two realms: old realm = life of bondage under law versus new realm = life in the spirit?
2. Read Romans 7:7-13. Similar to the way Paul describes being under law, give some examples of how people in these age brackets who never thought to do wrong will often choose to do so, once they are "told" not to: young children, teenagers, adults.
3. How do these examples echo Paul's words in this passage?
4. Read Romans 7:14-25. Paul uses old realm language to describe the reality of who we were in the old realm. Though we struggle with the vestiges of the old realm, our status is clearly in the new realm. "Sin remains, but doesn't reign." In light of this truth, what would you say about the dominance of sin in our lives?

5. As you read this passage, is Paul describing who he is now in his new life or who he was as a slave to sin?
6. What is Paul's hope and how does this give you hope?
7. Read Romans 8:1-4. In this passage, Paul says that "through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." What does this mean to you?

Engaging with our lives

1. Where would you say the spirit has been willing, but the flesh weak in your life? Work habits, diet, exercise, spiritual disciplines, other?
2. Once again, the key principle is that our obedience flows from who we are, not in order to determine or define who we are. Share an example of this from your life.
3. The Law is designed to drive us to Christ; the only one who can break the power of sin in our lives. How have you seen this transformation occur in your life?
4. The key new element Paul introduces about new realm living is life in the Spirit. How does the Spirit impact your life?
5. How can you guard against creating a "new law" through legalistic definitions and structures?
6. In your own words, describe your identity in Christ.