

Romans: Your Freedom in Christ

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

Freedom from the Law
Romans 7

<http://www.walldesk-hd.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/professional-baseball-outfielder-25-josh-hamilton.jpg>

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
(Jeremiah 17:9)

Flesh

Law

Sin

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. (Romans 7:5)

"Indeed, an honest and humble acknowledgement of the hopeless evil of our flesh, even after the new birth, is the first step to holiness. To speak quite plainly, some of us are not living holy lives for the simple reason that we have too high an opinion of ourselves."

John Stott

Jesus sets our hearts free from the endless struggle of flesh, law and sin into a new life of grace and peace.

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. (Romans 7:4)

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. (Romans 7:6)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” (Romans 7:7)

But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin is dead. (Romans 7:8)

For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (Romans 7:11-12)

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. (Romans 7:14)

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. (Romans 7:15)

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. (Romans 7:18-19)

Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (Romans 7:20)

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.
(Romans 7:17-20 ***The Message***)

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Luke 9:23-24)

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 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. (Romans 7:24-25)

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 7:24-25 *The Message*)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Sin is complicated but its solution is simple.

The cross changes everything.

If you're struggling with addictive behavior find professional Christian help.

Sanctification isn't a destination you arrive at (not in this life) but a road you travel.

We're fooling ourselves if we think we're beyond struggling with our flesh.

Your life in Jesus is based on his grace not your performance.

Jesus didn't come to make bad people good, he came to make dead people live.

Jesus sets our hearts free from the endless struggle of flesh, law and sin into a new life of grace and peace.