

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Romans // The Cycle of Sin

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July 3, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Are you more of a rule-follower or a rule-breaker? Explain.

Reading: Romans 7:7-25

Outline:

- I. The Law is not the Problem (Romans 7:7-12)
 - a. Sin causes us to see the commandments and rebel against them. Because of this, the Law promises life in a way in which it cannot deliver.
 - b. There is a temptation to see the harm that people's use of the law has caused and conclude that we need to discard it. However, it is not better to be in sin without the law. That means ignorance.
Q: What is a rule you have heard in your life that you disagree with?
- II. The Law is not the Solution (Romans 7:13-20)
 - a. Sin sees opportunity in the Law. Even when we do our best, and see the law as good, sin forces us to rebel.
 - b. The Law alone cannot break this cycle of sin. By itself, it can only tell us what not to desire. It cannot actually reorient those desires to what is good.
Q: What is a law/commandment that you find yourself struggling to follow?
- III. We Have a Solution (Romans 7:21-25)
 - a. Deliverance from sin did not come from any law, but from the work of Jesus. He entered the cycle of sin when he assumed our humanity, but never submitted to it so that He could deliver you from it.
 - b. Jesus' death and resurrection means that you are already forgiven for every sin and that you don't have to live in the fear that you have failed God.
Q: Recap: How has Jesus eliminated the power of sin? What does this mean in your daily life?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How has the temptation of sin caused you to break away from the Law of God?
- 2) How can I help those who abandoned God's will because of trauma associated with the Church?
- 3) How does the cycle of sin create distance between you and God? How has God ended the cycle?
- 4) How can we draw comfort in the knowledge that Jesus has the last word over sin?

Suggestions for further study:

- Galatians 2:20 **Q: How does our connection to Jesus allow us to have strength over sin?**
- Micah 7:18-19 **Q: How is God's steadfast love shown through our deliverance from sin?**

Closing Prayer:

. Father God, we see the reality of sin and the cycle that it produces. Sin and death lead only to more sin and death. But we know that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be human free from all sin so that we may be delivered from our own sin. We thank you for giving us freedom from the power of sin. Guide our hearts to be close to you in the face of sin and death. Let us be confident in the hope of Jesus. Amen.