

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Sinner and Saint

Pastor Gabe Kasper

October 18th, 2020

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: What is your favorite movie?

Reading: Romans 7:4-25

Outline:

- I. The Struggle (v. 7-11)
 - a. As we become aware of God's moral law, we become aware of our failure to keep it
 - b. We cannot escape the sense that our lives have moral significance
Q: Why are many people unable to recognize the similarities between secular "moral law" and God's law?
- II. The Simul (v. 4-6)
 - a. Simul translates as simultaneously justified and sinful, we are 100% saint and 100% sinner
 - b. Due to our sinful nature, we can't move towards the ultimate good, but due to His grace the ultimate good has moved toward us
Q: How do these verses give us hope for when we do fall into temptation and sin?
- III. The Solution (v. 25)
 - a. The solution is the gospel, it is to return again and again to the grace of God through Jesus
 - b. We should live a life of continual repentance, and foster the growth of the parts of our lives that are obedient to God's law
Q: Explain John Steinbeck's line in East of Eden, "Now that you don't have to be perfect, you can be good."

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Can you think of an example of a sin that you once became aware of, you began to notice it all the time?
- 2) Can you relate to the struggle Paul mentions when he says that he has the desire to do right but not the ability?
- 3) Do you have a sin in your life that keeps reappearing, no matter how hard you try to let it go?
- 4) Does it bring you some sense of peace knowing that we are 100% saint as well as 100% sinner?
- 5) How can we not lose hope when faced with the fact that we continually sin?

Suggestions for further study:

- 1 John 1:9 **Q: What promise does this give us for when we repent of our sins?**
- 1 Peter 4:8 **Q: What is a practical step we can take to combat our tendency to sin?**
- Psalm 103:9-13 **Q: How does God treat our transgressions?**

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus we thank you that even though we were dead in sin, you came and you breathed life into us. When we had no righteousness, you gave us your perfection. We thank you that you call us holy and your beloved, and please teach us to live into that reality as we deal with the tension of living as saints and sinners. We pray this in your holy name, Amen.