

INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



The New International Version translation is used for the questions.

1. Read Romans 7:1—8:1. When it says in verse 4 that we have died to the law through the body of Christ, what does that mean? What does verse 5 say that the law did in relation to our sinful nature? Have you ever had the experience that when someone told you what you should do, there was something inside of you that responded with the desire to do the opposite?
2. Pastor Jason said that there are four results of dying to the law, what are they? What do they mean? What are the three things he said the law is valuable for?
3. This chapter clearly tells us that as a Christian we still sin, why is that true? Why do you think God did not remove the sinful part of us when we were saved by Christ?
4. Does Romans 7 teach that it is a foregone conclusion that we will live by the Spirit and not give in to our sinful nature? When your sinful nature does control you and you sin, does that mean you are not saved or you have lost your salvation? How do you know?
5. In verses 14—24, what emotions does Paul express? Have you ever felt this way and experienced the same struggle? Read Galatians 5:16-18. What does this passage say we must do to defeat the desires of our sinful nature? How do we practically do this?
6. Despite the struggle described in this chapter that every Christian experiences, what does Romans 8:1 tell us? How does this truth affect you?

ANSWERS

- 1. When it says we have died to the law, it means that the power of the law to condemn us for our sin has been broken and we are no longer under its condemnation. Verse five says that instead of freeing us from the power of sin, the law actually inflames the desires to sin in our sinful nature, it magnifies the desire to do wrong. We all have experienced that feeling from within that when we hear what we should do, we want to rebel against it, this is what the law does. The law was never given to solve the sin problem, but to magnify it so we see the problem of sin clearly.*
- 2. The four results of dying to the law are: a. We have freedom from slavery to our sinful nature; b. We have a new relationship with God because we were raised from the death that sin brings; c. We have a new ability and purpose to now serve God; and d. We have a new motivation and power through the Holy Spirit to live in a way that pleases God. The three things that the law is valuable for are: a. To show us what sin is; b. To shine a light on the character of God and c. To show us how sinful and hopeless we are without Christ.*
- 3. The reason we still sin after becoming a Christian is because the part of us that compels us to sin (our sinful nature) is still in us, it was not changed when we trusted Christ. The reason God did not remove the sinful nature is we would no longer have the ability to choose to do what God says is right, our free will would be gone. We have to still make the choice every day of our lives to love God and to resist the desires of our sinful nature. This is how we prove we love God.*
- 4. No, just because you are a Christian does not mean you will have victory over your sinful desires. Whenever we do lose this battle, and we will, it does not mean that we are not saved or that we have lost our salvation, it only means at that moment in time we gave in to the desires of our sinful nature. The Holy Spirit still lives inside us and in 8:1 it says that if you are in Christ, there is no condemnation for your sin, Christ paid for them all. Ephesians 1:13 tells us that when we believed, when we trusted in Christ, we were included into his body and the Holy Spirit came to live in us. This does not change when we sin.*
- 5. In this passage Paul says: a. He is still feels like a slave to sin; b. Confused why he is still so sinful; c. Frustrated by his inability to do what is right; d. Fear that he is losing this battle; and e. Trapped in a lifestyle of sin. Galatians 5 tells us that victory over our sinful nature does not come from our will power to not sin, but by yielding ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit so that he controls us and not our sinful nature. Practically, we do this by a. Learning what God says is right and wrong from His word so that we can identify when we have sinful desires; b. Memorizing scriptures that allow us to recognize the lie we are being told when we are tempted because every temptation is a lie; and c. Choosing to follow what the Spirit desires us to do instead of what we are tempted to do at the point of temptation, to say "yes" to the desires of the Spirit and "no" to the desires of our sinful nature..*
- 6. Romans 8:1 is the assurance that despite the times we allow our sinful nature to control us and we give in to temptation, God never condemns us when that happens. This should cause us to be extremely grateful to God for his love of us and to strive to live the way he wants us to in order to show our gratitude.*

