

The Power Of Sin

Romans 7:7-25 - Am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet."⁸ But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power.⁹ At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life,¹⁰ and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead.¹¹ Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me.¹² But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.

¹³ But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.¹⁴ So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.¹⁵ I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good.¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.²² I love God's law with all my heart.²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

James 1:12-15 (ESV) - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

The Process Of Sin

- **We get distracted from what God wants.**

Each person is tempted when he is lured...

- **We are deceived into thinking sin is acceptable.**

...and enticed (tempted) by his own desire...

- **We make a conscious decision to give in.**

Then desire when it has conceived...

- **We commit the sin.**

...gives birth to sin...

- **The sin brings death.**

...and sin, when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Romans 6:20-23 - When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right.²¹ And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom.²² But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Aftermath Of Sin

- **We can reject God's mercy and forgiveness.**

Proverbs 28:13-14 - People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.¹⁴ Blessed are those who fear to do wrong, but the stubborn are headed for serious trouble.

- **Or, we can repent and receive forgiveness.**

Psalms 103:8-12 - The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.⁹ He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever.¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.¹² He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.