

## A Fresh Look at Religion - Outline

March 25, 2018

### So what about the Law?

Well, Paul says that the Law is good.

*So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is **holy, righteous and good**. (Romans 7:12, NIV)*

And that the Law reveals what sin is.

*What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, **I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law**.*

God gave the Law to define right from wrong.

*For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." (Romans 7:7, NIV)*

But the interaction between the Sin within us and the Law causes problems.

*But sin, **seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment**, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead. (Romans 7:8, NIV)*

When you make the Law your Master, Sin arouses within you.

*Once I was alive apart from the law; **but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died**. (Romans 7:9, NIV)*

What is good (the Law) when mixed with what is evil (Sin) leads to death.

*I found that the very commandment **that was intended to bring life actually brought death**. (Romans 7:10, NIV)*

When you make the Law your Master, you will face constant discouragement.

*For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. (Romans 7:11, NIV)*

**But if you are in Christ, the Law is no longer your master.**

*Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives? (Romans 7:1, NIV)*

And you have died to the Law.

*So, my brothers and sisters, **you also died to the law** through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. (Romans 7:4, NIV)*

And you now serve God in the new way of the Spirit.

*But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit**, and not in the old way of the written code. (Romans 7:6, NIV)*

## Then, how do I walk in the Way of the Spirit?

1. Walking in the Spirit means to be fully surrendered to Jesus as Lord of our lives.

*“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Matthew 6:24, NIV)*

2. Walking in the Spirit is to daily ask to be filled with the Spirit.

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18, NIV84)*

When you wake up say, “Here I am guide me to do your will.”

Exercise faith that God will do what he has promised.

3. Walking in the Spirit is to have the mind of Christ.

*Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. (Romans 8:5, NIV84)*

*The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; (Romans 8:6, NIV84)*

How we live our lives is linked to what we focus our minds on.

We are sensitive to any thought that conflicts with the truth.

*We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5, NIV84)*

There is a battle of faith that is first won in your mind.

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:8, NIV84)*

4. Walking in the Spirit involves living on mission with Jesus Christ.

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:24–25, NIV84)*

## **A Fresh Look at Religion – Study Questions**

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### **Intro Questions**

Can you think of a time when you were hurt by a legalistic person?

Can you think of a time when you, operating in a legalistic mindset, hurt someone else?

### **Read Romans 7:7**

If people can be hurt by legalism is the law sinful?

What example does Paul give us to show that is not the case?

### **Read Romans 7:8-10**

Is it Sin or the commandment that produces sins?

How does the Law intensify Sin?

Try to explain how you think this works.

### **Read Romans 7:11**

What did Sin do through the commandment?

### **Read Romans 7:12**

Write down the adjectives describing the Law and commandment.

### **Read Romans 7:1-4**

We are free from the power of the Law, but in that process become bound to another. Who is that?

What result does this new relationship have in our lives?

### **Read Galatians 5:16-25**

How do we walk in this new relationship that we have with God's Spirit?

### **Concluding Thoughts**

Think about some changes that you desire to see in your life because of these verses.