SERMON

Hello Husband

Romans 7

What Is Romans 7 About?

You've Changed Husbands

Romans 7:1–6

ROMANS 7:1–3 NASB

1 Or do you not know, brothers and sisters (for I am speaking to
those who know the Law), that the Law has jurisdiction over a
person as long as he lives?

2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as
he is alive; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law
concerning the husband.

3 So then, if while her husband is alive she gives herself to another
man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is
free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress if she gives herself
to another man.

ROMANS 7:4–6 NASB

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you also were put to death in regard to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were brought to light by the Law, were at work in the parts of our body to bear fruit for death.

6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

Romans 5–7 at a Glance

Paul's picture	What has changed
Romans 5 · King	Sin once reigned. Grace now reigns through Jesus Christ.
Romans 6 · Master	Sin once enslaved us. We now serve righteousness.
Romans 7 · Husband	We died through Christ. We now belong to the risen Jesus.

Fruit Comes from Union

We died through Christ → We belong to the risen Jesus → We bear fruit for God

The Law Is Not the Villain

Romans 7:7–13

ROMANS 7:7 NASB

7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Far from it! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

Sin as a Condition	Sin as an Action
“know sin except through the Law”	“known about coveting”

Sin as a power → produces → **Sinful actions**

ROMANS 7:7 NASB

7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Far from it! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet."

The tenth commandment targets desire before it becomes action.

Desire what belongs to another	→	Act on the desire

> 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.

נֶחְמָד *neḥmād · Genesis 3:6*	“Desirable”
לֹא תַחְמֹד *lōʾ taḥmōd · Exodus 20:17*	“You shall not covet”

Shared Hebrew root: **חמד** (ḥ-m-d) · desire, covet

ROMANS 7:8 NASB

8 But sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.

ἀφορμὴν λαβοῦσα
aphormēn labousa
Base of operations

ROMANS 7:8



ROMANS 7:9–10 NASB

9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment
came, sin came to life, and I died;

10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to
result in death for me;

ROMANS 7:11 NASB

11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it, killed me.

How Deception Works

01 Twists The Command

02 Makes Prohibition Feel Like Deprivation

03 Promises Life But Delivers Death

Genesis and Romans

Genesis 2–3	Romans 7:7–11
Adam lives in the garden before the command.	“I was once alive apart from the Law” (v. 9)
God gives one command about the tree (2:17).	“the commandment came” (v. 9)
The command protects life. Disobedience means death.	“this commandment, which was to result in life” (v. 10)

Genesis and Romans

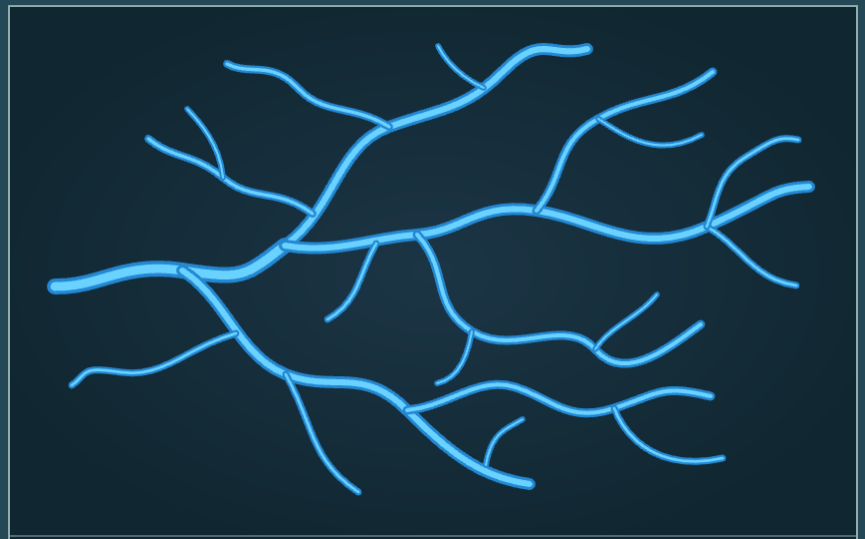
Genesis 2–3	Romans 7:7–11
The serpent uses the command as a way in.	Sin takes an opportunity through the commandment (vv. 8, 11).
Eve sees that the tree is desirable (3:6).	Sin “produced in me coveting of every kind” (v. 8).
“The serpent deceived me” (3:13).	Sin “deceived me” (v. 11).
Death is announced, then comes exile from the garden.	Sin “through it, killed me” (v. 11).

ROMANS 7:13 NASB

13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? Far from it! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by bringing about my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

Contrast Dye

The law reveals
how deep sin goes.



With Contrast

The Pattern Repeats

A good command comes → Sin exploits it → Death follows

The Good Law Can’t Make You Good

Romans 7:14–20

ROMANS 7:14 NASB

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold into bondage to sin.

Spiritual *pneumatikos*	The Law comes from the Spirit.
Fleshly *sarkinos*	Made of flesh.
Sold into bondage to sin *pepramenos hypo tēn hamartian*	A picture of someone sold into slavery.

ROMANS 7:15–17 NASB

15 For I do not understand what I am doing; for I am not practicing what I want to do, but I do the very thing I hate.

16 However, if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, that the Law is good.

17 But now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me.

ROMANS 7:18–20 NASB

18 For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

20 But if I do the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me.

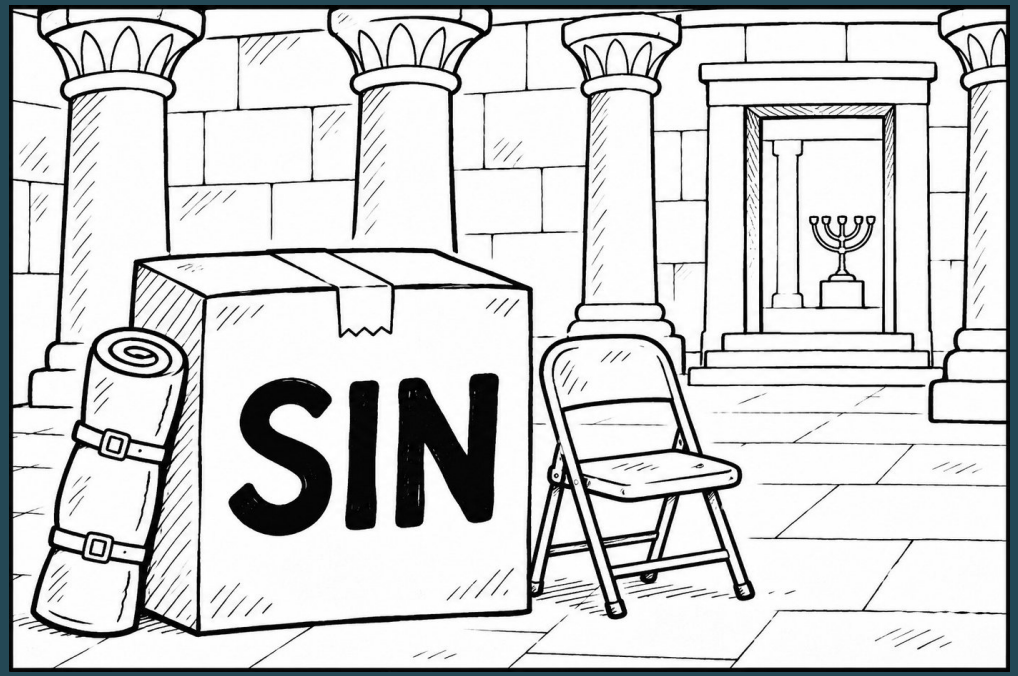
Sin Is a Squatter

οἶκος · oikos

house, home

οἰκέω · oikeō

to live in, to dwell



CROSS-REFERENCE

GOD DWELLS AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Exodus 25:8 NASB

> 8 Have them construct a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them.

1 Corinthians 3:16 NASB

> 16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

WHO DWELLS IN YOU?

ROMANS 7:17, 20 NASB

17 But now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me.

20 But if I do the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me.

CROSS-REFERENCE

ROMANS 8:9–11 NASB

9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

The Problem Is Power

Paul wants to do good and still finds himself captive.

ROMANS 7:21–23 NASB

21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

22 For I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person,

23 but I see a different law in the parts of my body waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin, the law which is in my body's parts.

Who Shall Save Us?

Romans 7:24–8:3

ROMANS 7:24–25 NASB

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

ROMANS 8:1–3 NASB

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

Who Shall Save Us?

Jesus Christ Our Lord

Our King. Our Master. Our new Husband.

Why Does the Law Have to Come Before Jesus?

> "God wanted sin to be brought to its full height in order that he might then deal with it, **condemn** it, **punish** it **once and for all.**
>
> But where was sin to grow to full height? Paradoxically, in Israel, the very people God had called to be the light of the world.
>
> Why? In order that in the person of Israel's representative, the Messiah, sin might be drawn on to one spot and condemned once and for all."

N. T. Wright

No Condemnation in Christ

Jesus bore our sin on the cross.