

No Perfect People Allowed

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Understanding & grace

Romans 7:15, 21-25a

Discussion Starter

- A. Share a time when someone took an interest in you and helped you feel welcome in a new place or situation. What did they do to make you feel more comfortable?
 - B. Share a time when you were made to feel unwelcome and unwanted. Do you think everyone purposefully acted in this manner?
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From today's lesson

Read Romans 7:7-25

1. What did Paul write about the law? Is it good? Bad? What does it do?
2. Is the fault with the law or with Paul?
 - a. What does sin do to a person?
 - b. How does sin relate to the law (commandments)?
3. What is Paul struggling to understand?
 - a. What does Paul "not do"?
 - b. What does Paul "do"?
 - c. What does Paul wish to do? Why doesn't he do it?
 - d. Why can't he do what he wishes to do?
 - e. Is Paul "copping out" when he says it's not him but sin who does it?
4. What war does Paul describe?
 - a. Where does it take place?
 - b. What / who are the casualties of this war?
 - c. Who can rescue Paul?
 - d. How is he rescued?

Application

Some have tried to explain this passage by claiming Paul is speaking of his “pre-conversion” life. There is, however, little in the language to support this position. Paul appears to be writing about the struggles which he sees as very real in his life.

1. Can you relate to Paul’s experience?
2. What is the purpose of the law? How can people end up relying on the law?
3. Can we ever be good enough to win this war? How is the war won? Why is that so hard?
4. Read the early part of Romans 8. How are we made “free”? Why is this so hard to believe?

Invest and Invite

Each Community Group is being asked to invest time (in prayer, meditation, and preparation) and then to invite their family, friends, neighbors, and other associates to take part in activities and events which are designed to open doors and share with them the truth of salvation in Christ. It is not about our strength. We plant and water, but it is God who does the amazing work of changing us and others so that we might grow up in Christ.