

Romans – 7 Listening Guide

1. At the end of chapter six, Paul showed that through Christ that before we were slaves to sin, now we find ourselves freed from sin and slave to God.
2. That relationship changed the result. We were once enslaved to sin – that resulted in _____. We are now enslaved to God – that results in a present benefit, _____.
3. The outcome is our _____ state in _____.
4. Chapter seven particularly targets an issue that is predominantly a Jewish issue. Having come to faith now what is my relationship as a Christians to the Jewish/ Mosaic _____?

Vs. 1

5. **Brethren** is a term meaning *brotherly love* but Paul gives it a parenthetical expression including those who know the law.
6. Those who know the law can only mean one thing, the _____.
7. He introduces...an analogy specifically for understanding our relationship to the Mosaic Law, having come to _____.
8. A married woman is _____ to her husband. What binds a woman to her husband? The _____.
9. The law permitted a _____ and stipulated that once a marriage existed there was no possibility for _____.
10. Moses made a way available for *women* who had been dumped by their husband to be _____.
11. But God declared that marriage is an _____ attachment.
12. The two should become one _____. It is a fleshly binding.
13. It is not a _____ binding.
14. What was previously an _____ bond, by the death of one, is no longer there at all.

15. He applies the analogy.

Vs. 4

Here's where the confusion can come in.

16. In the original analogy the husband dies and she's now free to remarry.

17. When he uses the analogy to apply to how the Church is in relationship to the law or to Christ, he's about to say _____ died, and yet we're also the one who remarries.

18. He wants to show you how it is that God was able to accomplish this breaking of the bind that locked you into the law.

19. The first half of the process. In chapter six, Paul says we were laid alongside _____ in the _____.

20. Spiritually speaking, when we were baptized in the Holy Spirit, we did experience a _____ of sorts. Christ having _____ in our place, we joined Him in that death spiritually speaking through the _____ of the Holy Spirit.

21. He gave us the opportunity to be _____ from what we were bound to previously through a death which was required but experienced by proxy.

22. Paul's point is not that we are _____ law. Paul's point is that we are no longer _____ to the _____ law. As a result we are no longer _____ by that law or _____ by that law.

23. We have been freed from one so that we can join another.

24. We have been joined to a new _____ and now are enslaved to _____ so that we might bear _____ to sanctification.

Vs. 5

25. "While we were in the _____" ... means living according to human _____ nature.

26. In the state we used to exist, the law had a primary affect. That primary affect was of raising _____ passions in our body.

27. When something is declared off-limits according to God's law, that _____ did not settle the issue for us in our _____.

28. What would settle the issue is God said it; I do it, that's it. But that's not the nature of the _____. So there is a constant fear because it was a constant understanding...that her life was _____ in conformity.

29. When you prohibit something...the mind turns to it.

30. Because we were in the flesh we took every prohibition as a _____.

31. As soon as I put a limit or a line, we suddenly are conscious of the fact that we might _____ it. That's what he means by arousing passion. You're stating that there is a limit and now I worry about the limit, or I think...or am tempted...by the limit.

32. Back to the analogy.

We have been **released**, literally means to *render inoperative or to* _____ as through death.

33. Having been released from the _____ we now serve God in newness of _____ not in _____ of law.

34. Our service to God is now accomplished in _____.

35. In serving God as a believer you're not going to find your service in keeping the Mosaic Law.

36. Your basis for knowing where the edges are so to speak is not found anymore in the written old law. It is going to be found in the _____ of the Spirit.

37. You are Spirit _____ not rule _____.

38. The Spirit does lead you to _____ and a heart that is willing to _____ will find that righteousness in living out.

39. The solution to a life that is still _____ at times is _____ to go back and adhere to the law.

40. The purpose of the law was to drive you to Christ. It worked. It's done its job. Now what? Now you're being led in the newness of the Spirit.

41. The method is entirely Spirit.

42. The flesh plays _____ role in this and anytime _____ accomplish a work, it's _____ by definition.

43. Chapter six was about sanctification... we now are in a position to serve God because we have been freed from sin.

44. Chapter seven's purpose is to narrow down at the beginning on the fact that you're not just freed from sin generally; you're freed specifically from the thing that condemned you – from the law itself.

45. Now he turns to the next step. Our benefit in the present time will be _____. The ultimate outcome will be _____.

46. What it means to be sanctified; _____ God in newness of Spirit.
Letting God _____ you by the Spirit.

47. The fruit of the Spirit will be _____, but it's in the very fact that He is _____ you, that you are being sanctified.

48. Before Christ came...the law was all that God had given, and was the way men served God. The Old Testament sanctification was in keeping the law.

49. Keeping the law communicated the story of the need for a Messiah. Once the savior has come...the story makes no more sense.

50. The Church now stands as His representative and the message is the New Covenant.

51. The Law of Moses is _____ the way we serve God now.

52. If the Law aroused sinful passions...are we suggesting that it was the _____ of sin?

Vs. 7

53. The Law is _____. The Law was the plumb line that said everything on this side is _____ everything on this side is _____.

54. Had I been able to abide by that law...it would have been effectively _____ to me. It was a prescription for _____.

55. Instead it became a _____ to the nature within that is opposed to God and programmed to choose _____.

56. The Law is good, but ...that doesn't deny the fact that as it was introduced... it _____ in their flesh the very behaviors it was supposed to _____.

57. The more that God revealed Himself to men, the more they naturally _____ Him.

58. This Law was holy because it outlawed sin and yet it _____ that very thing in us. But now because we've died in Christ we've been _____ from that.

59. You and I are no longer bound to the Ten Commandments, but we are _____ without law.

Paul begins to do this personification. Sin now is this aroused passion...and Paul begins to give it a name and set it apart from ourselves.

60. He's relating how sin had its initial affect in _____...men in general.

61. Satan was the original _____. So sin was alive and active in him before it ever reached man.

62. His first act was to go to _____ and to act on them – sin acting externally. In the way that act deceived them it killed them.

63. Since that point _____ has been _____ men.

Vs. 13

64. Sin was always the cause of _____.

65. The sin nature proves just how ugly and sinful it is that it took something meant for good and made it reason for further condemnation.

66. The flesh can not _____ itself to the law of God.

Vs. 17-20

67. Now we're talking about you and me today...now having become a believer.

68. In reality there are only two sources for anything happening in our life, it's either _____ or _____.

69. "Sin" has to be the _____. "I" has to be the _____. That's the only thing left.

70. We're talking about an argument, or a fight, or a war going on in each of us, and the two principle sides to this war are the new Spirit you received...which is one with the Spirit of _____... and sin which still carries the nature of Adam.

71. One is _____ and is being transformed in the image of Christ.

72. One is _____ and is destined for the grave, and that mortal part is the part that's still an enemy of God.

73. The Spirit can not understand _____.

74. Knowing that the Spirit part of you sees the sin in your life and doesn't like it...is proof that the law is good and I know (spiritually) that the law is good.

Vs.16

75. Whenever you sin you can attribute that sin _____% of the time to the _____.

76. The two ways to prove that: One is the clear testimony of _____ that God would never lead us into sin. The second proof is when I remove the _____ from your life...there will be no more _____.

Vs. 21

77. I am the one who wants to do _____ and in me there is _____ present like a companion.

78. Evil is present in me. Before _____ that's all there was.

79. But now I've been raised into a newness of life and in that newness of life I have a _____ "me" in me, who does not prefer sin and knows God's law and would joyfully concur with it were it not for this body that I'm shackled to.

80. With our mind... we serve the law of God but with our flesh we continue to serve the law of sin.

81. This chapter is very important for several reasons. It corrects the popular idea that our struggle with sin is only against _____ sins and habits, whereas it is also against our basic human _____. Second, it shows that human nature is not essentially good but... _____. Third, it argues that _____ sanctification... does not come from _____ laws, a form of legalism...but apart from law. It also proves that doing right requires more than just _____ to do it.

(Thomas Constable)

82. When we live according to the _____ we will become progressively more _____ without naming a list of rules.

**Verse by Verse Ministry
A Study of the Book of Romans
Leader's Guide – Lesson 7**

Overview

(Leader note – This week requires a deep level of intimacy and trust among your group, which hopefully by this time has grown to a point where the sharing required will come naturally. However, you should review the lesson carefully and well in advance.

Prayerfully consider how you could answer every question in the event that you would need to do just that. Fear and insecurity will rule in some members of your group, but try to draw them out with your own vulnerability and willingness to reveal your own struggles.)

Last week we talked about being baptized with Christ and receiving a new Spirit – the Spirit of God – so that we might live a new life. That new life has a new eternal focus and a new master. We live for the one who died for us. We are freed from the mastery of sin and therefore we are not to offer our bodies to it. Our lives are not to be characterized by the sinful nature of our bodies, but by the nature of the Spirit within us.

Today's discussion will not be a "how-to" lesson of rules to keep and methods to live by so much as an examination of the nature of the struggle within us. Pastor Armstrong did a masterful job of explaining the roots of the condition Paul describes in Romans 7, but let's begin there today just to drill down our discussion focus.

Discussion Topics and Questions

1. Read Romans 7:15-26
2. According to 7:18, what good lives in our flesh (sinful nature)?
3. What conflict is expressed in verse 26? This is the summation point, along with verse 21, of this passage.
4. Discuss the impact of knowing that even the apostle Paul could *feel* the same struggle that you feel day to day. How does that comfort you? How does it give you hope? Perhaps it is discouraging to you. Discuss that as well.
5. We've come a long way in our study through Romans and hopefully you have reached a point where you see things as they really are.
6. What was your condition before God prior to salvation?
7. What is your condition now that you have been saved?

(Leader note – there are many possible answers here, but be sure to interject the ideas of slave and freed man, enemy and friend. Also be sure that they remember from Chapter five's discussion that our sin **nature** has been fully atoned for.)

8. Review 2 Peter 2:19b from last week.
9. To what is a man enslaved?
10. Name some things that could become your master. Be specific, and remember the lists we discussed last week.

11. Now read 2 Corinthians 10:5 and James 4:7. In these two verses, list the imperative commands.

12. The thing is, this isn't very practical is it? We want to know *how* to do that *exactly*. This is where we could dive off into that "how-to" list of rules and methods, but today we're going to take a different path.

13. Read this compilation of a scripture passage from Revelation 2. Parts have simply been cut for the purpose of clarity as the words apply to our lesson. Feel free to read the chapter in full context later.

14. *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance...Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."* Revelation 2:1, 2a, 4-5a

15. This letter is written to the Church at Ephesus by the Apostle John on the Lord's behalf. It is not written to individual believers, but it could well have been and we're going to discuss why.

16. What does this passage say that the Lord knows and has seen?

17. And yet, is He pleased?

18. Because what has been forsaken?

19. How do these verses cut right to the heart of Paul's message in Romans to date?

20. In the simplest way possible, describe the answer to our struggle against our flesh according to the Lord's words?

21. Applying Revelation 2 to *mankind*, from what height have we fallen, and what did mankind do *at first*? In other words, what was Adam's relationship with God like?

22. Was Adam concerned with his deeds and hard work or with his perseverance? Why/why not? What had not entered the relationship to make those things *feel* necessary?

23. And so the Lord entreats the Church to repent from all these works and return to love. Why is that so hard for us?

24. If man was made in the image of God, and we have been reborn with His Spirit, what keeps us from being who we were made to be?

25. Paul describes our current condition as a war within us; a constant battle between our flesh and His Spirit. In a battle, a war, or even a game, there must be one winner and one loser, and essentially we have become the referee.

26. Read Matthew 16:25.

27. What does Jesus say is the key to finding life?

28. And that's the rub. Sin is a way of giving us the satisfaction of not losing control. But control – mastery – is what the Spirit requires. In order for the Spirit to be master, sin can not be. Paul says, and we agree that we desire to do what is right but wherever we have that desire, sin is right there with us. And so, what must we do? Read Joshua 24:15.

29. It is a simple answer but impossible to do with success 100% of the time because sin is comforting to us. In some areas of our lives we have chosen to let it be our first love. In order to repent, we have to turn away from the sin that has worked to protect us for so long, and leave ourselves vulnerable to God. That's where faith begins.

30. Remember the story of Isaac's near sacrifice? What would Abraham's flesh – his sin nature – have been telling him about God's instructions?

31. Which "voice" would have been easier to obey?

32. And Abraham was faced with a choice; whom will I serve.

33. Think of a time when you were extremely fearful and turned to something besides God to help you overcome your fear. Describe that to your group and discuss how the thing you turned to gave you comfort, where turning to God would have made you *feel* vulnerable.

34. Now replace fear with loneliness, or insecurity, or longing, or pain, or loss. What did you turn to? Think in very simple terms because we tend to turn to things that numb those emotions. We seek the attention of others, we work harder, we over indulge in food or drink, we escape through entertainment, we withhold ourselves from others. Be vulnerable now with your group.

35. Isolate one of those incidents and discuss what struggle was actually taking place. Between what two things were you choosing? Why did sin win out over love?

36. Now ask yourself why God allowed you to face that conflict? What was His motivation? Why did He not *remove* the temptation? What purpose is there in facing these struggles over and over again? Read Romans 8:28-30 to help you answer.

37. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. In any one of the situations you've been discussing, where was the "out" He promised to provide? Why didn't we take it? What was at risk if we did?

38. We mistake our longing for Christ as the longings of the flesh for comfort, satisfaction, security. These things are a poor substitute for our first love. When we choose them as a substitute for Christ, we have become their slave – they have mastered us – and we have shoved Christ off the throne of our hearts.

39. What is at stake when we choose our flesh over our first love? As you answer, think about the idea of being part of a whole, and think about the process of sanctification.

Summary

As we stand in the midst of the tug-of-war between our flesh and His Spirit, we only have to choose one over the other. Our flesh will win out many times in the process of our becoming aware of how we make it a substitute for our first love, but wherever there is failure, there too is God's grace. In that grace we can rest and rejoice. We can let grace be our master over guilt and condemnation, for, now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Close today by reading Deuteronomy 30:19.