

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Passage: Romans 7:7-13

Memory Passage: Romans 6:19

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) What have you learned about the law in Romans 1-7:6 (**Read 2:12-29, 3:19-31, 4:13-16, 5:12-21, 6:14, 7:1-6**, which contain all 51 uses of the word “law” in Romans 1-7:6). Take some time to write down what you learn, both to review some of the book of Romans and to understand where Paul’s listeners, especially some of his Jewish listeners, might be with regard to their understanding of what Paul is teaching concerning the law.

(b) **Read Rom. 7:7-13.** Why does Paul expect someone to accuse him of teaching that the law is sin? Why would Paul be so jealous to defend his thinking from abuse in this area (cf., for instance, 1:13 & 15:24)?

(c) *Family:* Prior to your lesson print copies of Rom. 2:12-29 and Rom. 3:19-31. Pass them out to your family and have them circle each occurrence of the word “law” (they should find 20 in 2:12-29 and 12 in 3:19-31). Review what Paul teaches about the law in these 2 sections, and then review what you learned about the law last week in your study of 7:1-6.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 7:7-13.** What relationship is Paul describing between the law and sin when he uses the word “yet” in v. 7? In what way did Paul “know” sin as a result of the law? When did this happen in Paul’s life?

(b) Why do you think Paul used coveting rather than any of the other 10 commandments (review the 10 Commandments in Ex. 20:1-17 if needed)? Was it something about this particular commandment that makes it the best illustration of Paul’s truth, or was it the commandment he struggled with most, or was it something completely different?

(c) What does “covet” mean? Is it only limited to coveting one’s neighbor’s property and family (cf. Ex. 20:17)? Does coveting necessarily result in an outward action, and if it does not, is it still a sin? Why or why not?

(d) In what ways are you struggling with coveting? Don’t just dismiss this question as irrelevant if you seem to be satisfied with your “stuff & things.” Give some prayerful thought to whether or not you are completely satisfied with what God is doing in every area of your life (your job, your family, your ministry through the church, your relationships with others in the church, your marriage and your marriage bed, your income, your abilities and giftings, your friends, your free-time, etc.), because if you are not satisfied with what God has provided, and your desire is to have something other than what He has provided, you may be coveting things that you did not realize.

(e) *Family: Read Romans 7:7.* Ask, “What is the definition of the word ‘covet?’” (It is an unhealthy yearning or desire to have something that God has not given you.) Try to help your family understand the difference between dreams/goals and coveting. It is not wrong to have dreams, to set goals and pursue them, or to work for something. But coveting includes being dissatisfied with what God has given us and a sinful desire to have something that someone else has, to sinfully want the blessings that God has given someone other than us. Ask your family, “Why is coveting wrong?” (The 10<sup>th</sup> commandment forbids it.) Now spend time describing what coveting looks like by using examples from life, examples which they will understand from their own experience.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 7:7-13.** How does sin actually work with regard to the law (“seizing an opportunity through the commandment”)? What 2 actions does Paul attribute to sin (vs. 8 & 11)?

(b) What does Paul mean when he says, “apart from the law, sin lies dead?” What have you learned already in Romans that helps you understand his meaning (e.g. Rom. 5:13-14, among others)?

(c) **Read Acts 26:1-6, Gal. 1:13-14, & Philip. 3:3-6.** Explain how these passages elucidate Paul’s use of his covetousness in Rom 7:7-12. Into what traps can believers fall as they endeavor to serve God? Into what traps have *you* fallen as you serve Him? What fruit is recognizable when a person is sinning in their service to God, and how can a believer speak the truth in love in order to help those caught in this kind of sin to grow up into Christ (Eph. 4:15)?

(d) *Family: Read Romans 7:7-13.* Remind everyone what you learned yesterday about coveting, and then have your family turn to and **Read Acts 26:1-6, Gal. 1:13-14, and Philip. 3:3-6.** Have them write down everything they find about Paul’s former coveting (he coveted being seen as one who serves God and kept the law perfectly and better than all other Jews). Then discuss how this process happened according to Rom. 7:7-12.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 7:7-13.** What does Paul mean when he writes in v. 9: “I was once alive apart from the law?” According to Rom. 3:9, 23, 5:12, et al. is there any human who is alive with regard to sin? So what is Paul saying about his life prior to his salvation?

(b) When did the “commandment come” for Paul, and what does he mean by this? When Paul says, “I died,” of what kind of death is he speaking? According to the context, how did the coming of the commandment bring sin to life and kill Paul?

(c) How did the commandment “promise life” (v. 10)? If that was the intent of the commandment, and yet it produced death in Paul, how can he say that the law is “holy, righteous, and good” (v. 12)? What is “good” about the commandment?

(d) In what ways can you proclaim the law to be “holy, righteous, and good?” In what ways can you use this fact to give wise counsel and encouragement to yourself, or to a fellow believer, when struggling with sin?

(e) *Family:* **Read Rom. 7:7-13** and ask, “How does sin seize an opportunity to deceive us & produce more sin?” Explain that the Greek word for “opportunity” is also used to describe a base of operations or a bridgehead that is essential for an army to accomplish their purpose of overtaking an enemy. So sin uses the law as a “base of operations” to try to produce more sin in a person through deceiving them that sin is something that is good. Then explain again the importance of what Paul has already taught us about the gospel and its effects on believers: We are now dead to sin’s power and penalty, so when we are tempted by its presence we can refuse to be overtaken (present our members) by it and instead serve (present our members to) God.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 7:7-13.** Explain in your own words Paul’s closing argument (and this verse also functions as a transition to the rest of the chapter). Was sin or the commandment the cause of Paul’s “death?”

(b) What is the end result of sin working through the commandment, and why does Paul rejoice in this (vs. 7, 13)? How do the questions asked in v. 7 compare with the questions asked in v. 13?

(c) Summarize Paul’s argument found in Romans 7:7-12. How does this passage further Paul’s ongoing teaching in Romans?

(d) How has what Paul teaches in 7:7-12 helped you to understand the process of sin? Write down at least 3 ways that you can better identify sin as it begins its deceptive work to entice you to present your members to it for unrighteousness so you can better crucify it and present your members to God for righteousness. Keep these applications with you this week so that you can meditate on them and put them into practice when you are tempted to sin.

(e) *Family:* Spend time tonight memorizing Romans 6:19, and then go back and review your memorization of Romans 8.

**DATE:** April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**PASSAGE:** Romans 7:7-13

*The Law Is Holy*