

God's Plan for Sanctification

Romans 6-7

I. An Overview of Romans 6

A. The Security of Justification May Be Misused

1. Romans 1-3: the Universality of Sin

Romans 3:9-12 *What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."*

2. Romans 3:21-28: God's sovereign provision for our justification

Romans 3:21-28 *But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

3. Romans 4: Justification by Faith Alone

Romans 4:1-5 *What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about-- but not before God. ³ What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. ⁵*

However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 4:6-8 *David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷ "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ⁸ Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."*

4. Romans 5:1-11: Assurance of Salvation

Romans 5:1-11 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

⁶*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

5. Romans 5:12-21: Original Sin (Adam and Christ)

Romans 5:18-19 *Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

6. Culminating verse

Romans 5:20 *The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more*

7. Possible for Christians to think: "Now that I'm saved by sovereign grace, I can sin as much as I want and still go to heaven."

B. Grace is no License for Sin (vs. 1-2)

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

C. Our Spiritual Union with Christ (vs. 3-5)

Romans 6:3-5 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

1. Spiritual union with Christ in his death and resurrection is the foundation of our sanctification
2. United with him through faith, we died to sin
3. United with him through faith, we were raised again to walk in a new life

D. Key Verse on Mortification (vs. 6)

Romans 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin

1. Our “old self” or “old man” is our identity in Adam... our natural status as a sinner under the wrath of God
2. That person is dead forever! Once we trusted in Christ, we were united with him in his death resulting in the death of who we were in Adam... we will never be that old person again
3. The next result of that is that the “body of sin” is progressively rendered inert or weakened, gradually destroyed—but not fully in this life
 - a. The “body of sin” is our natural bodies as they have been trained habitually to sin over the years
 - b. It is the set of bodily drives that continually push us to violate God’s laws
 - c. These drives can be gradually weakened, more and more... a slow death by starvation
4. The result of that is that we should not live lives in slavery to sin
5. This is where we get our title for this BFL class

“Slaying Temptations, Starving Sin”

E. The Spiritual Fact of our Death to Sin (vs. 6-11)

Romans 6:6-11 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

1. There is a decisiveness to our death to sin in Christ
2. Once you die, you will be done with sin forever
3. But you have already died to sin spiritually in Christ
4. So you should consider yourself dead to sin but alive to God
5. All of this is because of your faith in Christ... your spiritual union with him
6. THIS IS THE FIRST COMMAND PAUL GIVES IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS!! "Consider (count... reckon... think of) yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus"
 - a. This is a BATTLE FOR THE MIND

Ephesians 4:17-24 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.²⁰ You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

b. How you think is how you will live

7. Whenever sin comes tempting you, say boldly, "I am dead to that sin!!"
8. In Christ, no temptation will ever come upon you with authoritative force/power to COMPEL you to sin

F. The Basic Issue: Presentation of the Members... ONE WAY or THE OTHER

Romans 6:12-14 *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*

1. Paul focuses here on the MEMBERS of our body... the parts and portions of our bodily existence in this world
 - a. The flesh presses us toward sin by its LUSTS (evil desires)
 - b. These evil desires are the root cause of all sinful actions

James 1:13-15 *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

- c. These desires come at us with powerful force, as if to COMMAND US to sin
 - d. Each of these temptations can and must be put to death decisively by the Spirit (as we will discuss in Romans 8:13)
2. Paul wants us NOT to present our members to sin to obey its evil desires
 - a. The word “present” or “offer” will be repeated in Romans 12

Romans 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.*

- b. It has to do with a soldier standing before a commanding officer ready to obey his commands... like the angels would have been if Jesus had summoned them to deliver him from the soldiers who were there to arrest him

Matthew 26:53 *Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*

Angels obey in heaven “all the way, right away, with a happy spirit”

That’s what it means to present yourself either to sin or to God

3. We are commanded to PRESENT OURSELVES to God day after day, in fact, moment after moment, to obey his commandments

4. Basic reason: our new status in Christ... sin is no longer our Master, because we live in a new domain: NOT UNDER LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE

5. This refers to the Law in its role as prosecuting attorney and executioner

Next Objection: Freed from the Law, Shall We Sin?? NEVER!!

G. Your Show Your Status by Whom You Obey

Romans 6:15-18 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

1. The sin nature keeps trying to find permission to sin
2. But Paul gives the same answer: NEVER!!!
3. Fundamental principle of slavery: you show your master by whose voice you obey
4. The basic idea is: if you present yourself as a slave to sin, you are not redeemed
5. Who you present yourself to shows your true status
6. Now that you have been set free from sin, you never need to obey its wicked desires again
7. Vs. 17 Wonderful single verse showing the sovereignty of God over our own hearts: THANK GOD YOU OBEYED
8. Also the gospel has now become the caretaker of your soul

H. Habitual Patterns Are the Key to Sanctification

Romans 6:19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

1. Paul uses a simple human pattern of speech
2. In the past, your habit of presenting your members to sin led to ever-increasing addiction to sin, ever-increasing wickedness

3. In the same way... we are going to HARNESS THE POWER OF HABIT... habitual patterns of presentation of the body to God will result in ever-increasing holiness
4. This is how sanctification happens
 - a. Starving old sin habits to death by refusing the individual temptations that flow from it
 - b. Feeding and strengthening new habits of righteousness resulting in ever-increasing holiness

I. Christians Living in Sin is Insanity... it Brings NO FRUIT; but Holiness Produces Eternal Life

Romans 6:20-23 *When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1. It seems only right that you be consistent...
2. Back in the days before you were converted, righteousness held no attraction for you
3. In the same way now, sin should hold no attraction for you
4. Sin gave no FRUIT (benefit)... it resulted in DEATH
5. Holiness results finally in an eternally joyful life in heaven

II. An Overview of Romans 7: The Bitter Struggle with Sin

A. Paul's Analogy from Marriage: Our Death to Sin In Christ Frees Us Up from an Old Contractual Obligation

Romans 7:1-6 *Do you not know, brothers-- for I am speaking to men who know the law-- that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? ² For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³ So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.*

⁴*So, my brothers, 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 to God. ⁵ For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. ⁶ 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.

B. The Law is Not Sin... It is Holy and Good; yet it shows HOW WICKED OUR HEARTS WERE

Romans 7:7-12 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." ⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. ⁹ Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. ¹⁰ I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. ¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

C. Sin Is Insanity: I DON'T UNDERSTAND MYSELF!!

Romans 7:13-20 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. ¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

D. Only Christ Can Rescue Us from This Body of Death

Romans 7:21-25 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ 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. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.