

## August 1

### Acts 19-24; Romans 1-16; 1 Corinthians 1-3

#### Who do you belong to, and why does it matter

**Romans 7:1 - 8:4 (page 784)** <sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 7:1** 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? <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, {5 Or the flesh; also in verse 25} the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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." {7 Exodus 20:17; Deut. 5:21} <sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. <sup>9</sup> Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. <sup>10</sup> I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. <sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. <sup>12</sup> So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. <sup>15</sup> I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup> And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup> I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. {18 Or my flesh} For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 8:1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, {1 Some later manuscripts Jesus, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit,} <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the **law** was **powerless** to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, {3 Or the flesh; also in verses 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13} God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. {3 Or man, for sin} And so he condemned sin in sinful man, {3 Or in the flesh} <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

I belong to the Law of **GOOD**

I belong to the Law of **GOD**

I belong to **JESUS**

POSSIBILITY #1 – I am what the story is **ALL ABOUT**

## POSSIBILITY #2 – *JESUS IS* what the story is all about

### How many of you have *NEVER* broken the *LAW OF GOD*?

Exodus 20:3-17 (page 53) <sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before {3 Or besides} me. <sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand *generations* of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup> "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. <sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> "You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup> "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup> "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

### What if the Giver of the Law says it's not just whether or not you *PHYSICALLY BREAK THE LAW*, you're guilty even if you *THINK* about breaking the Law

Romans 3:18-24 (page 782) "There is no fear of God before their eyes." {18 Psalm 36:1} <sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever **the law** says, it says to those who are **under the law**, so that every mouth may be silenced and **the** whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

### The *RESULT* of the Law is that it *REVEALS* sin, but is *POWERLESS* to do anything about it.

Romans 8:3 (page 785) <sup>3</sup> For what the **law** was **powerless** to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, {3 Or the flesh; also in verses 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13} God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. {3 Or man, for sin} And so he condemned sin in sinful man, {3 Or in the flesh}

Isaiah 64:6 (page 522) <sup>6</sup> All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

### The result of *ABIDING* in Christ is *FORGIVENESS* and the production of *FRUIT*.

Romans 7:18 (page 784) <sup>18</sup> I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. {18 Or my flesh} For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>

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.

Paul isn't making an argument for **DUAL NATURES**.

Romans 8:1-13 (page 785) <sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 8:1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, {1 Some later manuscripts Jesus, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit,} <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, {3 Or the flesh; also in verses 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13} God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. {3 Or man, for sin} And so he condemned sin in sinful man, {3 Or in the flesh} <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man {6 Or mind set on the flesh} is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup> the sinful mind {7 Or the mind set on the flesh} is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation-- but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

Romans 7:4 (page 784) <sup>4</sup> 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.

The main filter we use to make SENSE of our circumstances is, “How does this **MAKE ME FEEL,**” it would be a far better to ask, “How could this help me to **BEAR FRUIT?** ”