

4. The following passages offer a more positive perspective on God's laws. How would you describe the right use of God's rules in the Christian life?

Romans 7: 7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not!

Romans 7: 12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Romans 7: 13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Romans 7: 14 We know that the law is spiritual...

Romans 7: 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law

Romans 8: 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 13: 8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

5. Read Romans 6:14 and 7:14-25. What is the alternative to a rules oriented kind of life?

6. How would you describe the danger of underestimating the power of Sin?

Gospel Resilience (A Series on Romans 5 – 8)

"2 Deadly Mistakes to Avoid when Building a Resilient Faith"

Romans 7:1-25

The _____ of Romans 5 – 8 is that a tested faith that remains resilient is made possible by God, and our role is to cooperate with him when we're tested.

2 Deadly Mistakes to Avoid when Building a Resilient Faith

1. Don't overestimate the power of _____. (Romans 7:1-13)

Romans 6: 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 7: 6...we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Christians have a tendency to start with grace and then move on to a "playing by the rules" kind of _____.

3 Dangers of Relying on a "Playing by the Rules" Kind of Life:

- Rules _____ sin.

The _____ to break the rules is always a way to prove we're in charge. It's like the first sin in the Garden. "Eat this and you will be like God." Sin is a strong desire to be god that's energized when something God's commands (or any other rules) try to get in the way.

Which sin is most present when you keep the rules really well? _____.
The chief of all sins. The original sin. The sin beneath all sins.

- Rules _____ us and crush us.

Coveting is a sin of the heart, and that makes it a lot harder to _____.

- Rules don't _____ it.

Deuteronomy 6: ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Romans 13: ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ...¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

2. Don't underestimate the power of _____. (Romans 7:14-25)

3 Possible Interpretations:

- This describes Paul's experience before he was a Christian.
- This describes Paul's experience as a Christian.
- This describes Israel's struggle under the law.

When we underestimate the power of sin...

- We buy into utopian visions of a world free from racism and poverty and war which (****spoiler alert!) always involve repression and _____.
- We often underestimate the power and reality and continuing impact of _____ within ourselves, in others, and in our world.
- We _____ our sins, blame others for our sins, ignore our sins, or deny our sins at all costs.
- We pursue freedom from constraints and end up _____ to sin.
- We underestimate the _____ for God's grace and for the gospel.

Don't try to fight sin by becoming a _____.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. How would you describe a "rule-keeper" type of person?

3. Read Romans 7:-13. How would you describe the dangers of living a "playing by the rules" kind of life according to this passage?