



**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis  
January 13, 2008  
REMEDY  
(Lasting Life Change Inside Out)

### “STRUGGLE” (Romans 7)

How does this relationship with Jesus Christ concretely and practically lead to change?

Romans 6 Principles of Change

**Romans 7 Why Change is so hard**

Romans 8 How to apply these principles

#### What Doesn't Work?

Verses 1-6

- 1) Getting my identity from my performance of the law.  
Obey the law but don't be married to the Law.  
Because your dominate motive will be fear.
  - ✓ Always Comparing
  - ✓ Critical of others
  - ✓ Crushed by Criticism
  - ✓ Can't handle Failure
  - ✓ Self-absorbed

Verses 7-13

- 2) Trying really hard to live the law of God by will power. (Moralism)  
It doesn't work because...
  - ✓ The law reveals my sinfulness (v7)
  - ✓ The law revives my sinfulness (v8)

#### Why It Doesn't Work?

Verses 14-23

- 1) There is a civil war occurring within me. (vv17, 20, 22-23)
- 2) Even though I desire to do what is right, by nature I am a sinner. V14 "...I am unspiritual..." V17 "...sin living in me." V18 "...but in my sinful nature..." V20 "...sin living in me..." V23 "...the law of sin at work within..."

- 3) Sin is not something that acts upon me from the outside or comes into me temporarily, but it is at home in me.
- 4) Even the most decent people have at the core of their being an incredible evil, a capacity for incredible self-centeredness and self-absorption.
- 5) This evil is hidden down deep inside of us even hidden from us until certain situations act as a occasion (not cause) for this wickedness to be revealed. (i.e. stress, temptation, marriage to a difficult person, etc.)
- 6) My assessment for my capacity for evil and sin is typically too small. Why? Self-deceit through rationalizing, justifying and comparisons.
- 7) There are two ways to become self-centered:  
One way is by being very bad. (Breaking all the rules)  
Second way is by being very good. (Becoming a self-righteous Pharisee)

#### What Does Work?

Verses 24-25 (Paul eludes to this in vv 4 & 6)

**I am more wicked than I dared to think.** (Humility)

V24 "What a wretched man I am!"

**I am more loved than I dared to dream.** (Confidence)

V24 "...who will rescue me...Jesus Christ our Lord!"

"A life without struggle is impossible, a struggle without surrender is miserable." Charles Swindoll

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Philip. 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Law implies that God requires for me to do something for Him (achieving). Deliverance from the law implies that He exempts me from doing it and that in grace He does it for me (receiving). It is a life not under law but love.



# Growing

January 13, 2008

## desert breeze community church

**1)** The Christian life is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ resulting in life change (Eph. 2:8-10). Explain. Why do you think life change is so difficult and takes so long?

**2)** In experiencing life change through Jesus Christ what doesn't work according to Paul in vv1-13? What happens when my identity comes from living according to the law? Why is life change more than will power?

**3)** Why is life change such a huge struggle according to Paul in vv14-23? Why is it so important to know that sin is not something that acts upon me from the outside or comes into me temporarily, but it is at home in me?

**4)** The negative people, things and circumstances are not the cause of the evil in our lives but only the occasion for it to be revealed. Explain. What are the two ways to become self-centered? Which way do you most often choose?

**5)** What does work in changing me according to Paul in vv24-25? Why is humble confidence a necessary balance in overcoming my struggle with sin? How do Gal. 2:20 & Phil. 4:13 relate? In what area of your life are you struggling and in need of the Savior? Pray about it.