

SERMON NOTES

Date: April 24, 2016

Title: True Freedom

Text: Romans 7:1-13

Big Idea: Being free from sin does not depend on keeping more rules, but on properly understanding the relationship between law and sin.

I. Introduction

II. Two Keys to True Freedom

A. Embrace Your Relationship to the God's Law (vs. 1-6)

B. Remember the Purpose and Value of the Law (vs. 7-13)

1. The law *reveals* sin.

2. The law *provokes* sin.

3. The law *condemns* sin.

III. Conclusion

1. Some churches are libertine or lax in their practice. They abuse the notion of grace and the result is rampant sin. Other churches are legalistic. They misrepresent the notion of grace by piling a heavy load of human-made rules on their parishioners. While neither extreme is God-honoring or healthy, most individuals and churches tend to lean one way or the other. Which tendency do you typically have to watch out for—liberty or legalism?

What is the appeal of churches/leaders who give their members/followers long lists of “dos and don’ts”?

2. As Paul explains it in chapter 7, what is the connection or relationship between the law and sin? (that is, how does the law *reveal* sin? *provoke* sin? *condemn* sin?)

How does this understanding impact the way you respond to your sin? The sin of others?

3. How, and why, is it helpful to be reminded that the commandments are about internal attitudes before they are about external behaviors?

4. Are there ways you are tempted to have a pharisaical view of God’s law, and of the Christian life?

5. Is there a contradiction between Paul’s observation that the law is a demanding, unyielding code of condemnation and David’s obvious affection for the law in Psalm 19? Why or why not?

6. In light of what you’ve learned about the purpose of the law, what danger does finding life in the law and commandments pose for Christians today?