

**Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture****SERMON TEXT:** Romans 7:13-25**KEY POINT:** It's only Christ who can deliver us from our bondage to sin.**FOR LEADERS**

- **Spring 2021:** Welcome back to Communities! This Spring season will run for a total of 8 weeks, from April 11th through the week of Sunday, May 30th.
- **Feedback:** Walking in discipleship together this past year during Pandemic has been CHALLENGING (to say the least)! Even so, the challenging seasons we've faced have opened new doors of opportunity for us together as a church. As we prayerfully consider what it means for discipleship to consider to flourish at Emergence, we would very much like to hear from our faithful leaders! When you have a moment, please head to www.emergencenj.org/feedback to let us know what your experience has been and to help provide insight as we plan for what's to come!
- **Want to help with outside services?** Text "outside" to 94000!

GETTING STARTED

- [1] Communities Video:** Watch this week's community extras video!
- [2] Icebreaker:** If you had a sunny day off and you could spend it anywhere, where would we find you?
- [3] Opener:** What were some of your biggest takeaways from the sermon this week?

CORRUPTING GOD'S LAW**Ask for someone to read Romans 7:13-14.**

Our passage this week in Romans presents a certain dilemma around God's law that Paul is addressing. The dilemma is this: If God's law is good and is intended to bring life, then why do we seek to read and obey only to find our own sin and wickedness? Is God somehow responsible for our failure?

- [1]** What is the "good" thing that Paul is referring to in verse 13?
- [2]** According to these verses, what is the true culprit that has distorted God's good creation?
- [3]** What effects does knowledge of God's law have on our sin? (Use the previous paragraph to help you!)

GOSPEL EQUALITY**Ask for someone to read Romans 7:15-20.**

- [4]** In your own words, explain what Paul is saying in verse 16. How does the mere fact that we do what we don't want to do show that we're in agreement that God's law is good?
- [5]** Describe a time where you experienced the reality of these verses in your own life.
- [6]** Do you think that Paul is overstating the case in verse 18, that there is literally nothing good that dwells in our flesh? Why or why not?

In the sermon, Ryan explained how God changes the desires of our hearts once we place our faith in Jesus and are filled by His Holy Spirit (Gal. 2:20, Eph. 1:13-14). This means that verses 15-19 are realized less and less for the Christian over time.

Ask for someone to read Romans 7:15-20.



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- [7]** If you're a Christian, what are some ways in which you've seen this realized in your own life?
- [8]** Even after turning to Christ, these verses are still true for the Christian. In fact, most believers feel that they can identify with what Paul says here in Romans 7. Do you think this stands in conflict with the fact that God gives his Holy Spirit to His children to help us progress in holiness? Why or why not?
- [9]** Paul says in verse 17 & 20 that when we do what we don't want to do, "it is no longer I who do it but sin dwelling in me." What does this mean? Does that mean that we don't bear responsibility for our actions because there's a force inside us we can't control?

STUMBLING BLOCKS

Ask for someone to read Romans 7:15-20.

- [10]** According to these verses, what are the two "warring" forces that define the human condition? What do each of these forces want?
- [11]** What is the alternative to despair when faced with this frustrating reality?
- [12]** What do you do in your own daily life to take hold of this hope? How do you face your own daily battle between the "law of your mind" and the "law of sin?"

PRAYER

- [1]** Take a moment to thank God for giving us his good law, and to ask forgiveness for living contrary to it.
- [2]** Pray that God would teach you what it means to turn to Christ, both in moments of struggle against our sin, as well as when we fail.