

# Sin Exploits the Law

## Romans 7:7-13

<sup>7</sup> What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

<sup>8</sup> But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

<sup>9</sup> For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

<sup>10</sup> And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

<sup>11</sup> For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

<sup>13</sup> Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

**THE BIG IDEA**

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

**Who is to blame?**

Since the law brings the knowledge of sin, it seems like the law is to blame for our sinning, but Paul points out in this text that the real culprit is the sin that dwells in us. Our sinful nature actually uses the Righteous Law of God to provoke in us a rebellion against God. Paul's personal experience agrees with our own: our sin exploits God's law to increase itself.

### **Part 1—Revealing Sin**

Read Romans 7:7; Romans 3:19-20

- 1) How does Paul argue in this verse that the law is not sin?
- 2) What effect is the law intended to have according to Romans 3?
- 3) How might this concept affect society's general opinion of the Bible and the 10 commandments?

### **Part 2—Provoking Sin**

Read Romans 7:8-11; Romans 5:20

- 1) How did the law affect sin from verse 8 to verse 9?
- 2) How do you think sin uses the law to increase itself (abound)?
- 3) How has the law provoked sin and rebellion in you in the past?

### **Part 3—Condemning Sin**

Read Romans 7:9-11; Leviticus 18:5

- 1) What is the connection between the law and death according to these verses?
- 2) Why do you suppose the law was found to be “unto death” in light of Leviticus 18:5?
- 3) In the event that you break the law, can you blame the law for your punishment? Why?

### **Part 4—The Real Culprit**

Read Romans 7:12-13; Mark 7:21-23

- 1) How does something so good (the law) produce something so bad (exceeding sinful)?
- 2) According to Mark 7 where does sin originate? How could sin use the law to appear more sinful?
- 3) Considering the sin which lives in you, do you think the law could produce righteousness in you? Why?