

Romans 7:1-8:34

Being Perfect Isn't Always Perfect!

Life Group Study Guide
Sugar Grove Church of Christ
11600 West Airport Blvd. Meadows Place, TX 77477
For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups

Memory Verse:

“But now we have been released from the law, for we died with Christ, and we are no longer captive to its power. Now we can really serve God, not in the old way by obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way, by the Spirit.

Romans 7:6 (NLT)

Connect:

- Make sure everyone in your group knows everyone else. If you have new members take a few minutes getting to know them and learning how they came to be connected to your group.
- Remember the empty chair as you open your group time in prayer
- You have one minute to speak to the entire nation on national television. What one or two key things would you like to tell them?

Grow:

- Paul uses the imagery of marriage at the beginning of chapter 7 to show that just as death breaks the marital vow, so sharing in the death of Christ breaks our “marriage” to sin and the law. Therefore verse 4 begins to show us that our previous ‘spouse’, who was named sin and law, died so that we could belong to another. Read Romans 7:1-6
- Why does death break the marital vow?
- If death did not break the marriage vow would someone be able to remarry? Why?
- Is it possible to ‘commit adultery’ in our relationship with God? How? How might we know if a believer was having an affair in their relationship with God? What behaviors would be associated with this type of ‘affair’? (*these behaviors would be characterized by sin and/or by rule keeping!*)
- Some people try to mistakenly earn God’s approval by keeping a set of rules (e.g., *obeying the Ten Commandments, following the ‘rules’, developing our own rules for church that we consider to be markers of who God approves of and who he doesn’t...*) Is it possible to perfectly follow all of God’s rules? Is it possible to perfectly figure out all of the things we are supposed to do for God in our life and in church? Why or why not? What are the consequences of this perfectionism?
- Read Romans 8:1-4
- Romans 8:1-4 reminds us that the righteous requirements of the law are met through Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit living in us- not by our own

perfectionism! Perfectionism leads us away from God because it forces us to rely upon ourselves instead of upon the Spirit of God he has poured into our hearts. Perfectionism becomes sin...

- Sin promises special benefits: wisdom, knowledge, and sophistication. How?
 - Sin promises power and prestige in exchange for cooperation. How?
 - Sin promises that we won't have to worry about consequences. How?
 - Sin promises that our actions can be kept hidden, so no one will know. How?
 - Sin promises to satisfy our desires even more than the last time. How?
 - Sin deceives people by misusing the law. It is filled with false promises and deceptions!
- Romans 7:6 and 8:4 mention a different kind of life in the Spirit. What kind of life is Paul describing in the Spirit?

Worship:

- All Christians struggle against sin and perfectionism. We must never underestimate their power; and we must never attempt to fight them in our own strength. Satan is a crafty tempter, and we have a great ability to make excuses. Instead of trying to overcome these with human willpower, we must take hold of the tremendous power of Christ that is available to us. This is God's provision for victory—he sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and give us power. And when we fall, he lovingly reaches out to help us up.
- *Often we ask the group to remember others in prayer but for this group session limit your prayers to include only the people sitting in your group right now.*
- In light of today's discussion what are some things the group needs to take into the throne room of God for you this week?
- Close your group time in the throne room of God!

Preparation for Next Time:

- Read Romans chapters 8 & 9

