

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Romans

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Purpose of Law

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Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: Christ's death frees us from the authority of the Law and places us under the authority of grace.

Read Romans 7:1-12

1. Paul here is speaking directly to the Jewish audience in Rome (v 1). What clue helps us know who Paul is addressing? What is the value in understanding who he is addressing? We may not follow the Old Testament Law as Paul's Jewish audience did, but what are some ways we try to "earn" God's approval today? How does this section of Scripture speak to that?
2. Paul uses marriage to illustrate that death ends a binding covenant (vv 2-4). What is the binding covenant(s) that Paul is signaling they are no longer bound to? When you think about your transition from death to life, what were you freed from? If someone asked you what changed when you moved from death to life in Christ, how would you explain it?
3. Paul says the purpose of this new union with Christ is to bear fruit for God (v 4). What kind of spiritual fruit do you expect to see in someone who has a relationship with Christ? What are some of the unseen habits that go into our visible walk with Christ?



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4. When we live in the flesh, even good commands can expose and provoke the sinful desires in us that lead to death (v 5). Have you ever had someone tell you not to do something, which caused you to then want to do that thing? How does that type of scenario reveal that our problem isn't the rule but the sinful desires living inside us?
5. Paul contrasts the old way of the Law with serving in the new way of the Spirit (v 6). Share about an area of your life where God moved you from external compliance to internal desire (from feeling like you “have to” to “want to”)? From your experience, how would you describe what it is like to serve in the Spirit?
6. Paul says he wouldn't have known what coveting was if the Law hadn't named it (v 7). How does God's Word shine a light on attitudes or desires that we might otherwise overlook? Why do you think it's easier to focus on outward behavior than on what's happening in our hearts? How can inviting God to search our hearts lead to real change instead of just surface-level obedience?
7. Paul describes sin as something that seizes opportunity and deceives us, ultimately leading to death (vv 8-11). In what ways does sin disguise itself as something good, harmless, or justified? Why is sin most dangerous when it feels reasonable? How can bringing sin into the light within Christian community break its power?
8. God's Word is described as holy, just, and good (v 12). How does God's Word act like a mirror that reveals what is already in us rather than creating the problem? If the Law exposes sin but cannot change our hearts, what does that show us about our need for Jesus?



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