

Studies In Romans

(Romans 7:7-14)

1. Is the law sin?

No: *"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"* (**Romans 7:7**).

- The sting of death is sin (**I Corinthians 15:56**).
- Breaking the Law is sin (**I John 3:4**).
- We will address this later, but the Law itself was not sin (**Romans 7:12**).
- The knowledge of sin came by the Law (**Romans 3:20**).
- Accountability came by the Law (**Romans 5:13**).
- Freedom from this Law came through Christ (**Romans 8:2-3**).
- To illustrate the point, we read that man would not have known lust if the Law had not said "thou shalt not covet" (**Exodus 20:17, Deuteronomy 5:21, Joshua 7:21-26, and Romans 13:9**). Verses 8-9 continue this illustration further.

2. Can sin happen without a law in place?

No: *"(8) But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. (9) For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died"* (**Romans 7:8-9**).

- Sin taking occasion [opportunity] by the commandment can only mean sins seized the opportunity through the commandment to produce wrong doing. How does sin work (**James 1:13-16**)?
- Concupiscence [longing, desire, lust; Strong's # 1939] (cf. **Colossians 3:5** and **I Thessalonians 4:5**).
- "I" is not referring to Paul and he was not alive when instructions prior to Moses or the commandments of Moses came into effect.
 - There were commands given to Adam and then Eve (**Genesis 2:15-17**).
 - There was no chance for sin prior to that command.
 - Paul never lived at a time wherein there was no law in place. He lived under the Law of Moses (**Philippians 3:4-5**) and of Christ (**Galatians 6:2**).
- Sin revived [made alive] when the Law came. Why? Sin is the breaking of the Law (**I Samuel 15:24**). As we addressed already (**Romans 7:7**), where there is no law there is no transgression.
- Death came about through sin (**Romans 5:12** and **Romans 6:16**).

3. What was the commandment ordained to?

Life: *"And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death"* (**Romans 7:10**).

- Notice, verse 13 will show that the Law did not bring death. Sin did.

- Ordained to life (**Deuteronomy 8:1, Deuteronomy 30:16, Leviticus 18:5, Proverbs 4:4, Proverbs 7:2, Ezekiel 3:21, Ezekiel 20:11-13, and Luke 10:25-28**).

4. Was it sin or the law that deceived?

Sin: *“For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me”* (**Romans 7:11**).

- The deceptiveness of sin (**Obadiah 1:3, Ephesians 4:22, Hebrews 3:13, and Titus 3:3**).
- This does not mean sin deceives us without our choice to allow it (**James 1:26**).

5. What is holy, just, and good?

The Law: *“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good”* (**Romans 7:12**).

- **Nehemiah 9:13-14, Psalms 19:7-8, Psalms 119:127-128, and I Timothy 1:8.**
- We should recall though, while the Law was good and gave physical life, it was not designed to give eternal life (**Galatians 3:21-24; cf. Acts 13:38-39**).

6. Was it the Law or sin that brought about death?

Sin: *“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”* (**Romans 7:13**).

- **Romans 4:15 and Romans 5:20.**
- In regard to the wording “exceeding sinful”... This is a statement of emphasis. We KNOW that there is not an exceeding [beyond measure] sin (**James 2:10-12**).

7. Is it the Law or man that is carnal?

Man was carnal: *“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin”* (**Romans 7:14**).

- The Law was spiritual (**I Corinthians 2:9-13 and II Peter 1:20-21**).
- The word of God always works on the inward man (**Deuteronomy 30:14, Psalms 119:11, and Luke 8:15**).
- Man, to be considered carnal in thinking, means they’re walking as men (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**) rather than being directed by God (**Galatians 5:16-26**).
- Sold under sin; i.e. slaves to sin (**John 8:34**).
- The Old Law served the flesh of man (**Romans 7:6**) whereas the words of Christ serve the spirit of man (**John 6:63**).