

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Is the Law Sin?

Romans 7:7-8

"...for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin."
(Romans 3:20)

"For the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law,
neither is there trespass."
(Romans 4:15)

"The Law came in that the transgression might increase..."
(Romans 5:20)

"...the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law..."
(Romans 7:5)

⁷ What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

⁸ But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin *is* dead.

⁹ I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;

¹⁰ and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;

¹¹ for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

¹² So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

(Romans 7:7-12)

Is the Law Sin?

- No! But Paul shows how sin used the law to bring death

Sin and the Law

1. The Law brings the knowledge of sin
 - the law defined specific actions and desires as sinful – "trespasses" (e.g. "coveting")

➤ Example of "Coveting" – Why?

- not an obvious sin to most people
- deals with inward desires not external behavior
- it is at the root of many other sins
- it is itself a form of idolatry (cf. Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5)

Sin and the Law

1. The Law brings the knowledge of sin

- the law defined specific actions and desires as sinful – "trespasses" (e.g. "coveting")
- the law exposes the real nature and power of sin, which it is powerless to overcome

Sin and the Law

2. Sin uses the law to produce sins

- the law is not the originator of sin but the operating base sin uses to accomplish its evil purpose
- the law, which imposes limitations by God, serves to stimulate by those very limitations our rebellion

Is the Law Sin?

➤ No! It is good...

- but sin uses the law to bring sin and death
- but the law itself is powerless to produce the obedience it demands

³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

(Romans 8:3-4)