

Romans Study Guide – Week 11: What Good is God’s Law?

Romans 7:1–25

Message Summary

In this chapter, Paul reveals both the purpose and limitations of God’s law. While the law cannot save, it does serve an essential role—it reveals sin, helps us understand our internal struggle, and ultimately shows our need for a Savior. The law is good and holy, but our flesh is weak. Paul’s raw honesty reminds us that even as believers, we wrestle with doing what’s right. Victory isn’t found in self-effort—it’s found in Jesus.

Main Themes:

- The law exposes sin, but it cannot cure it.
- Salvation brings a new spirit, but the battle between flesh and spirit continues.
- Our minds must be renewed through God’s Word to walk in victory.
- Jesus is our only hope in overcoming sin.

Key Scriptures

- Romans 7:1–6 – Released from the law, bound to Christ
- Romans 7:7–12 – The law reveals sin
- Romans 7:13–25 – The inner battle between flesh and spirit
- Romans 12:2 – Be transformed by renewing your mind

Study Questions & Answers

1. **Why does Paul compare the law to a marriage covenant in verses 1–4?**
2. **What value does the law still hold for believers today?**

3. **Paul says, “I do what I hate.” Why is that comforting for modern believers? (Comforting, but not an excuse.)**
4. **What does it mean to have our mind “renewed” according to Romans 12:2? Why is that important?**
5. **Why is it important to recognize that Jesus is the “who” that saves not a “what”?**
6. **How have you seen God use His Word to expose sin or convict your heart?**
7. **What practical ways can you renew your mind during the week?**

Family Spotlight – The Mirror and the Mess

Object Lesson:

The Mirror and the Mud

You'll need:

- A handheld mirror
- A little dirt or washable marker

Activity:

1. Let your kids get a little dirt or marker on their face.
2. Have them look into the mirror and describe what they see.
3. Ask: “Did the mirror make you dirty?” (No!)
4. Explain: The mirror shows the mess—it doesn't fix the mess. The Bible says God's law is like a mirror. It helps us see our sin, but only Jesus can wash it away.

Memory Verse for Kids: “Let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.” – Romans 12:2 (NirV)

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Study Questions & Answers

Why does Paul compare the law to a marriage covenant in verses 1–4?

He illustrates that just as a spouse is released from marriage through death, we are released from the law when we die to sin and are raised to new life in Christ.

What value does the law still hold for believers today?

It shows us what sin is, shapes our moral compass, and reminds us of our need for Jesus. While it

cannot save, it still reveals truth.

Paul says, “I do what I hate.” Why is that comforting for modern believers? (Comforting, but not an excuse.)

It reminds us that we’re not alone in our struggle. Even Paul wrestled with sin. The struggle doesn’t disqualify us—it proves we need a Savior.

What does it mean to have our mind “renewed” according to Romans 12:2? Why is that important?

It means allowing God to change the way we think through His Word. Transformation begins in the mind before it shows up in our actions.

Why is it important to recognize that Jesus is the “who” that saves not a “what”?

Victory over sin is not found in a rule, ritual, or resolution—it’s found in a relationship with a living Savior. Jesus is the only one who can deliver us.

8. How have you seen God use His Word to expose sin or convict your heart?

Answers will vary. Encourage testimony and reflection.

9. What practical ways can you renew your mind during the week?

Daily scripture, Christian community, worship, journaling, prayer, devotionals.

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7. Ask: “Did the mirror make you dirty?” (No!)
8. Explain: The mirror shows the mess—it doesn’t fix the mess. The Bible says God’s law is like a mirror. It helps us see our sin, but only Jesus can wash it away.

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