

Indwelling Sin in the Believer

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: Though I am freed from the bondage of sin, I am still indwelt by sin, which constantly seeks to control my body and mind.

As Paul walks slowly and deliberately through this teaching on sin, law, and grace, he highlights the problem of indwelling sin. Is this person of which Paul speaks a believer or an unbeliever? Many see these verses describing an unbeliever, or Paul in his pre-Christian life. However, the body of evidence shows that this is Paul's life *as* a believer. He is growing in maturity, he's speaking of his present experience, and he's reminding us all that even though we're dead to sin, it is still very much alive. Paul paints the picture of a Christian who is very aware of his sin, in contrast to unbelievers who may be blissfully ignorant of their sinful standing before God. For Paul, it wasn't until the law came in and convicted him that he even recognized there was a problem. So, this is a person who knows the truth and who wants to do good, but because of sin's presence, he has a constant struggle in his flesh to *do* right.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 7:13-25** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled "**Indwelling Sin in the Believer.**"

DIG IN

Indwelling Sin...

1. Does not condemn the Law or erase the Fall. (Romans 7:13-14)

Does sin still reside in the believer? Why or why not? Why does this reality not condemn the law?

What is the difference between "sold under sin" (v. 14) and "selling oneself to do evil" (see 1 Kings 21:20 & 25)?

2. Pits my Flesh against my Mind.

(Romans 7:15-20)

In what ways does indwelling sin war against the mind of the believer? What are some examples of this war?

In what ways can the problem of indwelling sin demonstrate a growing maturity in Christ?

In what ways does the "flesh" (v. 18) point to our fallenness? Why do we continue to struggle with fallenness even after we become new creations?

3. Sets up a Rival Law within me.

(Romans 7:21-25)

In what ways does the context of this passage describe what "another law" (v. 23) is?

What are some passages of Scripture that help us neutralize this rival law?

In what ways does indwelling sin remind us to live repentantly? Resolutely?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?