

Theme: Because our sin has short-circuited God's Law, our progress in sanctification comes by the power and ministry of the Spirit.

I. Intro – Review of the Proper Use of the Law

- A. There are many today who debate purpose of Law
- B. Proper uses of the Law
 - 1. The Law shows us true righteousness and holiness
 - 2. The Law shows us our own unrighteousness
 - 3. The Law restrains men from acting on evil impulses
 - 4. The Law points us to Jesus - who saves us from sin
- C. Improper uses of the Law - The Law can not justify
- D. The Law in sanctification
 - 1. The Law does not have the power to justify
 - 2. But can it sanctify those already justified?
 - 3. What is the role of the Law in sanctification?
 - 4. What is the role of the Spirit in sanctification?

II. The Law Can Not Sanctify

- A. Paul is dealing with sanctification in Romans 6-8
 - 1. Romans 1-5 is all about justification
 - 2. Romans 6:1-3 - died to sin; baptized
 - 3. He has now moved to sanctification
 - 4. How do we overcome the power of sin?
- B. The Law can not sanctify either

- 1. The Law is weakened by the flesh (Rom 8:3-4)
 - 2. But righteous requirements still fulfilled in us! (v4)
 - 3. But fulfilled by walking according to Spirit (v4)
 - 4. So sanctification comes from the Spirit - not the Law
- C. Note sanctification by Spirit and not Law in Romans 7-8
- 1. 7:4-6 - died to Law to bear fruit; sin aroused by Law; way of Spirit
 - 2. 7:14-18 - law vs flesh; know & want right, but can't do it
 - 3. 7:21-25 - law of God; law of sin - only Jesus rescues!
 - 4. 8:1-2 - law of Spirit sets free from law of sin!
 - 5. 8:3-4 - law fulfilled in by walking in Spirit - not law!
 - 6. 8:12-14 - put misdeeds to death by Spirit
 - 7. Table of Law and Spirit in Romans 7-8
 - a. Romans 7 - Problem - Law can not overcome sin
 - b. Romans 8 - Solution - Spirit overcomes sin!

III. The Spirit in Our Sanctification

- A. The Spirit is the One Who sanctifies
 - 1. Spirit gives freedom from power of sin
 - 2. Rom 8:1-4 - Spirit sets free, empowers
 - 3. Romans 8:13 - put to death misdeeds by the Spirit

4. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 - Spirit frees, transforms us
5. Galatians 5:16-18 - Spirit/flesh war; not under law
6. Gal 5:22-25 - fruit of Spirit; no law; walk by the Spirit

B. The Law does have a place in our sanctification

1. The Law still does have a place - as a guide
2. The Spirit moves us to obey the Law (Ezek 36:27)
3. The Law still shows us righteousness and sin
4. But only the Spirit can help us to obey!

C. Keeping in step with the Spirit

1. The key here is relationship - not rules!
2. Led by the Spirit - into holiness! (Rom 8:13-14)
3. Led by the Spirit - against sin (Galatians 5:16-18)
4. Keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25 NIV)
5. Transformed by the Spirit - as we behold God (2 Cor. 3:18)
6. Many want principles - we must draw close to God

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we use the law properly in sanctification?

1. Do I know that God's Law defines righteousness & sin?
 - a. Story of woman & dream - no adultery
 - b. Don't need a dream - God's Law!

2. Do I know Law (or techniques) can not change me?
3. The goal is not just external behavior!
4. I need to be changed from the inside - Spirit's work!

B. Do we know the Spirit's power to transform us?

1. Do I see the promises of the Spirit's transforming power?
2. Do I trust the Spirit - or Law, principles, techniques?
3. Our age prefers techniques - so I don't have to change!
4. Do I trust the Spirit's power in my spouse, children, and others?
5. Ever present danger of legalism!!!!
6. Do I behold God regularly - and let Spirit transform me?

C. Communion - Beholding Christ, Being Transformed by the Spirit

1. We often look for other things to draw people
2. We often look for other things to help us grow spiritually
3. We often look down on the simple means of grace
4. But God has promised to meet us here!
5. Behold Christ, His work - and be transformed by the Spirit!

The Law and the Spirit in Sanctification

Romans 8:1-4
 August 7, 2011
 Communion
 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Romans 8:1-4 (all Scriptures in ESV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can **we who died to sin** still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us **who have been baptized into Christ Jesus** were baptized into his death? Rom 6:1-3

Likewise, my brothers, **you also have died to the law through the body of Christ**, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order **that we may bear fruit for God**. 5 For while we were living in the flesh, **our sinful passions, aroused by the law**, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. 6 **But now we are released from the law**, having died to that which held us captive, **so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code**. Romans 7:4-6

For we know that **the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin**. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 **Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good**. 17 **So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me**. 18 **For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out**. Rom 7:14-18

So I find it to be **a law** that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 **For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law** waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to **the law of sin** that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me** from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, **I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin**. Rom 7:21-25

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if **by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live. 14 For all who are **led by the Spirit of God** are sons of God. Romans 8:12-14

	Romans 7	Romans 8
Law	23	5
Spirit	1	21

Romans 8:1-4 (all Scriptures in ESV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if **by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live. Romans 8:13

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. **For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit**. 2 Cor 3:17-18

But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh**. 17 **For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do**. 18 **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law**. Gal 5:16-18

But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; **against such things there is no law**. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit**. Gal 5:22-25

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezek 36:27

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but **if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live. 14 For all who are **led by the Spirit of God** are sons of God. Rom 8:13-14

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Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Gal 5:25 NIV

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18