



Lesson #1: I Just Can't Stop the Sin Cycle (Romans 7:14-25)

Have you ever felt like you were on a merry-go-round of sin, but you couldn't figure out how to get off even if you wanted to? One pastor calls this a "_____go-round" of sin. You know what you are doing is wrong and yet you keep doing it. That's what Paul describes in Romans 7 and his own spiritual experience. He hates what he is doing, but he feels like he can't stop.

Romans 7 is a passage that grips us because we understand exactly what it is saying. We look into its pages and we see ourselves reflected back at us. Today we begin a series entitled *Messy Lives – Used by God In Spite of Dirty Laundry* and I believe Romans 7 should be a great comfort and _____ as we begin. This passage is sort of Paul's very honest spiritual _____. Paul describes a real frustration – one with which all Christians can identify.

As you study this text, you'll find it falls into three parts. Three different times Paul concedes his own person struggle with sin. Three different times he gets back on the merry-go-round (First Cycle – 7:14-17; Second Cycle 7:18-20; Third Cycle 7:21-25). Paul makes it very clear that every believer struggles with sin but also that every believer can be freed from sins bondage. **If you will get honest about your own _____ comings you will find that God is there to _____ you all you need to overcome them.**

EVERY BELIEVER STILL STRUGGLES WITH THE _____ OF _____

Each one of Paul's confessions reveals a different aspect of the struggle we face as believers to live victoriously for Jesus Christ.

- A. You struggle to _____ up to your _____ knowledge (7:15-17)**
This is a dramatic testimony of Paul's struggle with sin. Paul says in verse 15 that he struggles to live up to what he _____ he ought to be doing. Have you ever been there? You know the good, but you do the _____. You know what's wrong, you even fight against it, and then you do it anyways.
- B. You struggle to _____ up to a righteous walk (7:18-20)**
Paul is struggling to come to grips with _____ personal failure. He wants to grow up in Christ but he is still trapped and enslaved by sin.

- C. You struggle to _____ up about the real problem (7:21-24)**
We move the next level– the intense struggle to own up to the war withing.
- The Greek word for "*present with me*" means right _____ me.
 - The Greek word for "*waging war*" means to line up the _____.
- If Paul struggled, it will probably happen to you too. You're going to struggle and the real battle is not the ones on the outside but the sin on the _____.

EVERY BELIEVER CAN _____ OUT FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN

Romans 7 provides the first steps away from sin. These are the elementary steps that lead you out of the pit of bondage.

- A. STEP #1: You need to get _____ about your sin (7:24a)**
Paul is calling himself a wretch, a worm, a dirty rotten sinner. If there is anything clear in this text it is the _____ of the problem. Paul is admitting to something that we all must admit to; He is admitting his own _____.
- B. STEP #2: You need to _____ about your struggle with sin (7:24b)**
Paul says that every attempt to follow the letter of the law is bound to fail at some point. Paul's question at the end of verse 24 makes it clear that he needs help from someone outside himself if he will be delivered. This is where both humility and honesty play central roles.
- HONESTY says "I am a _____ man."
 - HUMILITY says "I cannot _____ myself."
- In your own power you are bound to be a loser. Sin is much more powerful than all your good intentions. You need help!
- C. STEP #3: You need to be _____ about your walk with God (7:25)**
Verse 25 gives us the most wonderful truth. It's the answer to everything Paul has just said about sin. All of what he is about to say in chapter 8 is comprehended in that one tiny statement: "*Thank _____ through _____.*" There is provision. There is hope. It's all right here but it's not a _____ it's a _____!

Concluding Thoughts

Believer's often experience a frustrating cycle of being defeated by sin because they continue to yield to their old nature. But the real problem with many Christians is not their _____ over their sin, like that of Paul, but their lack of it. We teach Christians to "cope" with their sin. But Paul never did. We seek to convert sins into being "_____." We cannot stand to see people "_____ themselves _____." But those who can identify with Paul in this passage and get honest about sin, get humble before God, and get really hungry to walk with God are blessed. The _____ of Romans 7 is the prerequisite for the _____ of Romans 8.