

Romans 7:7-25 What can Change us?

1. What has been the most significant piece of insight into the dynamics of discipleship you have gained through this series in Romans so far? why?

Read Romans 7:7-25

2. (7,8,13) The purpose of the law is to show us something. What does it show us and how?
3. (8-9) In your own experience how does the law produce / stir up sin?
4. (8-9) What do you think Paul means when he says "I was alive apart from the law, but then the commandment came and I died"? Have you had this experience?
5. (7-8) Why do you think it was the law "thou shalt not covet" that came home to Paul?
6. (14-25) Who is the "I" that Paul is talking about here? (It might be helpful to explore this question from a few different perspectives – is Paul's "I" an unconverted person?, converted?, Paul himself? Paul taking on a different perspective?) How does identifying the "I" in these different ways help us understand Christian experience? Which one do you think is right?

In the sermon Tim took the perspective that Paul is taking on the thinking of his objectors – to say that if you believe the law can change us - all you leave me to is crying out my helplessness for I am unable in myself to obey the law. This sets us up beautifully for chapter 8 where It is the Spirit that grounds us in the glorious love of God in Jesus that shapes new creation in us and through us. The last question leans into that interpretation.

7. In Christ through the power of the Spirit all of the laws of God become promises. This is what I am forming in you. Discuss.