

Tension

Romans 7

SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I. Introduction

Have you ever been disappointed with God?

- “Can there be a good God?”

Ann Voskamp, *One Thousand Gifts*

- A recap of Romans 1-6

II. Know the Good News: We have a new relationship to sin

But: What about the Old Covenant?

- A Walk through Romans 7:7-14
- Accept the Hard Truth of Paul’s diagnosis

III. Receive the Hard Truth as part of the Good News

- I have a sin problem, I am not my sin
- However great sin is, Jesus is greater

IV. Accept: Faith is holding together the truth of the Gospel

V. Respond: Make the conscious choice of seeing all people through the truth of Romans 7

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. When have you felt disappointment with God?
2. Where is the tension in your life right now?

Reflecting on the Message Together

Read Romans 7

1. Pick the verse or verses that most speak to your life right now. What is it saying and why do you think it stands out to you?
2. We have a new relationship to sin; it no longer has mastery over us. Why does it sometimes feel like sin still has mastery over us? Try to give biblical justification for your answer?
3. Why was Paul so concerned about defending the goodness of the Old Covenant?
4. In verse 8 we hear, “But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced every kind of coveting.” How does sin use the command to bring about death?
5. Ralph identified three commands (sexual immorality, be rescued from hell by trusting in Jesus, ask in my name and your prayers will answered) that sin working in us can twist to create doubt and rebellion. Identify two other commands that sin tries to twist in order sow doubt and frustration?
6. How would you respond to a skeptic who claims that the biblical teaching of sin causes low self-esteem? Use the hard truth of Romans 7 as part of the basis of your response?
7. How did God speak to you through the message?
8. How can we pray for one another?