

# Living Connections Bible Study



## Self-Portrait

**Text:** Romans 7:1-9

### Prayer

**Icebreaker:** How does our human nature, the flesh, respond when it is confronted by the demands of the Law?

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1. Why shouldn't the Christian run to the Law for help in our quest for sanctification (holiness or Christ-likeness)? Romans 6:14; 8:2-3

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2. How long does the Law have dominion over a person? Verse 1

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3. How does Paul illustrate the Law's authority over a person as long as they live? Verses 2-3

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4. How has the Christian been freed from our old representative head, Adam, from the sin nature inherited from him, and we are now free to marry another? Verse 4; Romans 5:18-19; 6:2-4; Ephesians 5:22-27, 32

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5. How does being under a new husband/head enable us to bear fruit acceptable to God? And what kinds of fruit should we bear? Verse 4; Romans 6:22; Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:1-5; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Ephesians 5:9

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6. What kinds of fruit come from the flesh - our old sinful nature? Verse 5; Galatians 5:19-21

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7. Why can't the flesh produce good fruit? Verse 5; Romans 7:18; 8:8; Galatians 3:3

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8. How do the demands of God's righteous Law stir up evil desires coming from the flesh? Verse 5

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9. How has our death to the Law and our old sinful nature set us free to serve God in resurrection power? Verse 6; Romans 8:11; Philippians 2:13

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10. Since the Law cannot sanctify and make us holy; and since the Law stirs up evil passions in our flesh does that make the Law evil? Verse 7

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11. What is covetousness and how does the Law awaken covetousness in our old nature? Verses 7-8 Exodus 20:17; Colossians 3:5

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Before Paul was saved he was a Pharisee, trying to live by the Law. And before we are saved the Bible says we are spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins.

12 To what period of Paul's life was he most likely referring when he tells us; *For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ?* Verses 8-9; Acts 9:17-18, 20-22

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Think about it this week:

Read Galatians 5:16-18 concerning the believer's two natures:

*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.  
For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;  
and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.  
But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.*

Come back next week prepared to discuss Paul's struggle between the flesh and his new nature described in the rest of Romans chapter 7.