

THE POWER OF SIN

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.” (1 Cor 15:56)

On first glance it seems that there must be some mistake. Is this a typographical error? How can sin be empowered by law? Especially when we remember that the law was given by God and put into effect by angels through the hand of a mediator (Gal. 3:19). We know that through the law is the knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20). We know the law is not bad, but holy and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good (Rom. 7:12). We also know that the law is spiritual (Rom. 7:14). Yet, we must still face the painful fact that the Scriptures also teach that the “power of sin is the law”.

When seeking to understand this dilemma, we need to remember that the law was not given to save. Quite to the contrary. The law was given that every mouth might be stopped and all the world become guilty before God (Rom. 3:19). Through law, sin becomes utterly sinful (Rom. 7:13). There is, however, a lawful use of law (1 Tim. 1:8). It was designed by God to bring us to Christ that we might be justified by faith (Ga. 3:24). Paradoxically, however, the more law we have, the greater is the power of sin in our lives. Please prayerfully consider the following verses:

- Law brings wrath, because where there is no law, there is no transgression (Rom. 4:15).
- Sin is not taken into account where there is no law (Rom. 5:13).
- The law was added so that the trespass might increase (Rom. 5:20).
- Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace (Rom. 6:14).
- Our sinful passions are aroused by the law (Rom. 7:5).
- Paul would not have known covetousness if the law had not forbidden it (Rom. 7:7).
- Sin seized the opportunity afforded by the commandment (Rom. 7:8).
- Apart from the law sin is dead (Rom. 7:8).
- When the commandment came, sin sprang to life (Rom. 7:9).
- Sin seized the opportunity afforded by the commandment (Rom. 7: 11).
- The law was weak through the flesh (Rom. 8:3).
- Christ is the end of the law for righteousness (Rom. 10:4), Etc.

Remarkably, the Law, written in stone and enforced without mercy, was actually “weak” (Rom. 8:3). The Good News, is that what the Law could not do because it was weak, God accomplished through Jesus Christ. The victory, of all things, is accomplished by delivering us from the Law. Note:

- But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law (Gal 5:18).
- For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.” (Rom 6:14)
- You also died to the law by the body of Christ (Rom. 7:4).
- We have been released from the law so that we can serve in a new way (Rom. 7:6).
- Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death (Rom 8:2).
- The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so (Rom. 8:7).
- Commandments lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence (Col. 2:23). Etc.

“For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8: 3 - 4).