

Title: Breaking the law
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Word

Question 1: does the gospel encourage sinful living?

Romans 6:1

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

Response 1: sin shall not have dominion

Romans 6:2, 14

² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Question 2: does grace mean we can do as we want?

Romans 6:15a

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?

Response 2: the law does not have dominion

Romans 6:15b, 16

Certainly not! ¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Romans 7:1, 4-6

¹ Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?

⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. ⁶ But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

Question 3: is the law evil?

Romans 7:7a

What shall we say then? Is the law sin?

Response 3: the law is not the problem

Romans 7:7b-13

Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." ⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. ⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ¹⁰ And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. ¹² Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. ¹³ Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

Breaking the law of sin and death

Romans 7:24-25

²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:1-4

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Ministry

1. Jesus loves you more than you can ever know.
2. Ask Jesus to break either liberalism (self-indulgence) or legalism (self-righteousness) in your life.
3. Position yourself in the freedom of Christ and His Holy Spirit.