

Galatians 2:17-19

17. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, **we ourselves also are found SINNERS, is Christ therefore a MINISTER of SIN? Certainly NOT!**

- **Romans 7:7** "What shall we say then? Is the law _____? Certainly _____! On the contrary, I would not have _____ sin except through the _____. For I would not have _____ covetousness unless the _____ had said, 'You shall _____ covet.'"
- **Psalms 119:97-99 & 104** "Oh, how I _____ Your _____! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your _____, make me _____ than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more _____ than all my teachers, for Your testimonies (God's word) are my _____." (Verse 104) "Through Your _____ (laws, commandments) I get _____; therefore I _____ every _____ way."

Definition: "Is the LAW SIN?" - The answer is "NO!!" God's law is PERFECT. As we study and learn God's law, we get wisdom and understanding, and **a knowledge of WHAT SIN REALLY IS, and how horrible it is in God's sight.**

- **Romans 7:12-13** "Therefore the _____ is _____, and the commandment is _____ and just and _____. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But _____, that it might appear _____, was producing death in me _____ what is _____, so that _____ through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful (we would see it for what it is)."
- **Psalms 19:7-12** "The law of the Lord is _____, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is _____, making _____ the simple; the statutes of the Lord are _____, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is _____, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is _____, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are _____ and _____ altogether. More to be desired are they than _____, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than _____ and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is Your servant _____, and in keeping them is great reward (a better life here on earth). Who can understand his _____? Cleanse me from secret faults."
- **Psalms 119:129-130** "Your testimonies are _____; therefore my soul _____ them. The entrance of Your _____ gives light; it gives _____ to the simple."

Definition: "We ourselves also are found SINNERS" - If these false teachers, the "Judaizers" were correct, then **Peter and the other Jewish Believers would be considered "SINNERS" because they were eating and fellowshiping with the Gentile Believers and treating them as equals.** In fact, if these Judaizers were right, even Jesus Himself was wrong and a sinner, because **Jesus taught that no food could make a person unclean** (Mark 7:19, Acts 10:13). Instead, Jesus taught that ALL who believe in Him, whether Jews or Gentiles, are One in Christ, and equally saved. The moment you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, **you are BAPTIZED and placed into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit.** ALL believers are ONE in Christ, although we don't always ACT like it.

- **John 17:20-21** "I do not _____ for these alone (His original disciples), but also for _____ who _____ in _____ through _____"

- their word; that they _____ may be _____, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that _____ also may be _____ in _____, that the world may believe that You sent Me.
- **I Corinthians 12:12-14** "For as the body is _____ and has many members, but _____ the _____ of that one body, being many, are _____ body, so also is _____. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into _____ - whether _____ or _____, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many."
 - **Ephesians 1:22-23** "And has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the _____, which is His _____, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Definition: "THOSE who WILL BELIEVE in Me through their WORD" - Jesus is praying for US, because every Believer in the earth today has believed in Jesus "through the word" of these original eleven apostles (the Twelve minus Judas). Their testimonies were written down and became the Gospel accounts in the Bible that we read today.

Definition: "Is Christ therefore a MINISTER of SIN? Certainly NOT!" - As we said above, Jesus taught that no food could make a person unclean, but rather that it was sin within a person's heart that makes him "unclean" and a sinner. **Jesus was NOT contradicting God's laws, but rather was making people look more carefully at what God intended in the first place.** Jesus in His teachings holds us as followers of Christ to a much higher standard in many areas of conduct than any Old Testament laws, including the Ten Commandments (Matthew 5:21-48). For instance, the commandment, **"You shall not murder"** - Jesus gave us the true intent behind the commandment, in that even the sin of anger, and calling someone names, is **the same as committing murder in God's eyes.** As followers of Christ, if we are filled with the Holy Spirit and God's love (Romans 5:5), we will not murder or harm another person.

- **Romans 13:8-10** "Owe no one anything except to _____ one another, for he who loves another has _____ the _____. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit _____,' 'You shall not _____,' 'You shall not _____,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other _____, are all _____ up in this saying, namely, 'You shall _____ your _____ as yourself.' Love does no _____ to a neighbor; therefore _____ is the _____ of the _____."
- **Matthew 5:21-22** "You have _____ that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not _____'; and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you, that whoever is _____ with his _____ without a cause shall be in danger of the _____. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You _____!' shall be in _____ of _____ fire."
- **Mark 7:18-19** "So He said to them, 'Are you thus _____ understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever _____ a man from _____ cannot defile him, because it does _____ enter his _____ but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?'"

18. For if I BUILD AGAIN those things which I DESTROYED, I make myself a transgressor.

- **Psalms 127:1** "Unless the Lord _____ the house, they _____ in vain (uselessly) who _____ it; unless the _____ guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."

Definition: "If I BUILD AGAIN those things which I DESTROYED" - Paul preached **AGAINST the false system of "legalism" or salvation by our own works**, so in a sense, he was "destroying" the idea of people "trying to earn their salvation by keeping the Old Testament laws". If he were to start teaching that the Gentiles did need to keep the Old Testament Jewish laws, he would be "BUILDING AGAIN" the religious system that he had left behind, and **he would be "transgressing" or sinning against what God had told him to preach.**

19. For I through the LAW DIED to the LAW that I might LIVE to GOD.

- **Romans 7:4-6** "Therefore, my brethren, you also have become _____ to the _____ through the _____ of _____, that you may be married to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear _____ to God. For when we were in the flesh, the passions of sins which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been _____ from the _____, having _____ to what we were held by, so that we should _____ in the newness of the _____ and not in the oldness of the letter."
- **II Corinthians 3:4-8** "And we have such _____ through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from _____, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the _____ covenant, not of the _____ but of the _____; for the _____ kills, but the _____ gives _____. But if the ministry of _____, written and engraved on _____, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of _____ because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, (See Exodus 34:1-9, 27-35) how will the ministry (working) of the _____ not be more glorious?"

Definition: "OLDNESS OF THE LETTER" - The Old Covenant, the Old Testament, the **"letter" referring to the WRITTEN LAW** given to Moses on TABLETS OF STONE. The penalty for breaking God's law was DEATH. Paul contrasts the Old Covenant of Death with the New Covenant of life in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Definition: "I through the LAW DIED to the LAW" - Since we have DIED and have been crucified with Christ (Romans 6:1-8), we are now born again to a **NEW LIFE of LIVING for GOD through His Holy Spirit**. In Romans 7:1-3, Paul says the same thing, only comparing it to a woman whose husband has died. Paul is not necessarily teaching about marriage here in Romans, but he is using a universal "law" to **illustrate a point**. In almost all cultures, a woman is free to marry again if her husband dies. That dead husband has NO MORE CLAIM ON HER. Paul has already told us that WE HAVE DIED to sin and to the Old Testament Law through Christ (we have been crucified with Christ in our spirits), and now he is saying that because of that the **Old Testament Law has NO CLAIM ON THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST** whatsoever!!

- **Romans 7:1-3** "Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the _____ has _____ over a man as long as he _____? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as _____ as he _____. But if the husband _____, she is _____ from the _____ of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband _____, she is _____ from that _____, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man."
- **Romans 6:6-7** "Knowing that our _____ man (self) was _____ with _____, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should _____"

longer be _____ of sin. For he who has _____ has been freed from sin."

Definition: "MARRIED TO ANOTHER" - The church is called the bride and wife of Christ, and we are "joined" to the Lord, just as one is "joined" in marriage.

- **I Corinthians 6:16-17** "Or do you not know that he who is _____ to a harlot is one _____ with her? 'For the _____,' He says, 'Shall become _____ flesh,' But he who is _____ to the Lord is one _____ with Him."
- **Revelation 19:7-8** "Let us be glad and _____ and give Him glory, for the _____ of the Lamb (Jesus) has come, and His _____ has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, _____ and _____, for the fine linen is the _____ of the _____ (the church)."
- **II Corinthians 11:2** "For I am jealous for you with _____ jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one _____, that I may _____ you as a chaste (pure, undefiled) virgin to _____."

Definition: "LIVE to GOD" - God wants us to LIVE for Him and "BEAR FRUIT to GOD." In this context "fruit" means product, RESULTS, outcome. **The OUTCOME of our lives should be to DO what God WANTS US TO DO.** So then, if Christians are not bound to keep the Old Testament Law and Ten Commandments, then what is our standard by which we know that we are pleasing God and being obedient to Him? We see that not only Jesus in His teachings while on earth (Matthew 5:21-48), but also the entire New Testament, holds us as followers of Christ to a much higher standard in many areas of conduct than any Old Testament laws. Not only is it a higher standard, but the method in which we "keep the commandments" is entirely different. **The New Testament tells us we are to "bear FRUIT" by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us,** and the most important "fruit" is love. The New Testament tells us that **if we WALK in LOVE** we will automatically obey all the commandments, because "love does no harm to another" and God's love in us is our motive and source of power (Romans 5:5). **Jesus said we are to "BEAR FRUIT to GOD."** In this context "fruit" means product, RESULTS, outcome. The OUTCOME of our lives should be to DO God's will and live a life that is pleasing to Him.

- **John 15:4-5 & 8** "Abide (stay close) in _____, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear _____ of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless _____ abide in _____. I am the _____, you are the branches. He who _____ in Me, and I in him, _____ much _____; for without Me you can do _____." (Verse 8) "By this is My Father glorified, that _____ bear much _____; so you will [prove to] be My disciples."
- **Colossians 1:10** "That _____ may have a walk _____ of the _____, fully _____ Him, being _____ in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."
- **Ephesians 5:9-10** "(for the _____ of the _____ is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), proving what is _____ to the Lord."
- **Galatians 5:22-23** "But the _____ of the _____ is _____, _____, _____, longsuffering (patience), _____, _____, faithfulness, _____. Against such there is no law."