

SCRIPTURE: Romans 7:13-25

SERMON TITLE: "How To Lead An Imperfect Life"

Series Title: Putting Life Together In A Pull-Apart World #14

THEME/ CONCEPT:

Perfectionism is one of the most subtle enemies eroding our confidence and commitment.

Romans teaches that neither the Gentile sinner nor the religious Jew can be saved by the law or works/ performance. Romans 7 teaches that the follower of Jesus who is likewise tempted to establish his/ her own righteousness can never do so! The sooner we break free from this deception, the sooner we can enter more fully into the joy and power of grace! Like the message of Galatians, we cannot "begin with the Spirit (grace) and end with the flesh" (Gal 3:3).

Application: The greatest sin is not our failure; it's our presumption that we can succeed without full dependence on Christ.

OUTLINE

Life as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

The problem with that which is forbidden

The "here not yet" of our salvation in Christ

We are sinners redeemed, yet in constant need of a Savior!

Application: The greatest sin is not our failure; it's our presumption that we can succeed without full dependence on Christ.

For Slides while I read the passage:

Rom. 7:13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Rom. 7:14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Rom. 7:21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.