



# Romans

**Right With God**

# Sin Is Really Bad

**Lesson Twenty-Nine**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

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Page 2 of 4

### Sin Is Really Bad

The verses we study today are very personal for Paul. Someone called the last part of this chapter Paul's spiritual biography. Read Romans 7:7-12. We need to keep in mind through this whole discussion that Paul is a Jew, and is reasoning with Jews in Rome. Some of the discussion of the Law is not as clear to Christians as it is to Jews.

Paul said that he didn't know sin without the law. Does that mean that anyone who does not know the law cannot sin? No. Paul made it clear in Romans 2:14, 15 and 5:12-14 that all people have an understanding of right and wrong. Paul wants us to see that those who have the Law understand that sin is against God. It makes sin uglier. It makes sin much more than going against one's conscience. Sin is really bad!

Paul gives an example. He uses the tenth commandment, Exodus 20:17. It says, "You shall not covet." Coveting is something that begins inside and makes us want things. Our desires come before anything else. Coveting puts us in first place...above others and their rights. Just wishing for what someone else has doesn't seem so bad. However, when that wishing becomes desire and envy, the Law tells us that we are sinning. We are putting our wants above those of others. He says to us that the Law, God's command to us, show us the seriousness of sin.

Next we are told that the Law leads to temptation to sin. He shows us that the childish desire to do that which we should not do is the result of sin...it is sin. Many children, when told not to do something, are strongly tempted to do it just because someone told them that they shouldn't. Mark Twain once said, "If a mule thinks that he knows what you want him to do, he will do just the opposite." He continues, "The fault is not in the ideal." So, the fault is not in the Law, but in our reaction to it.

Another writer, Leon Morris said, "Without something to rebel about, there would be no rebels." Paul is not saying that there was no sin before the Law was given. Actually, the very first sin, of Adam and Eve, was long, long before the Law was given. So, the Law doesn't cause sin, our rebellion against it *is* sin.

The Law, to Paul, was that which woke him up to the realization that he was dead in sin. We might see this as waking up to our own personal accountability to God. A baby doesn't know any better than to sin. But, there comes a time when that child realizes that not only are they doing something wrong, but that the wrong done is against other humans and ultimately against God. It is then that we realize that we need new life...life in Christ. Sin is really bad!

# Romans

## Right With God

Lesson Twenty-Nine

Page 3 of 4

Paul says, “Sin sprang to life and I died.” The happy sinner died. In the light of the Law, actually all God’s word, we see ourselves as we really are. Sin has full control in our lives, and only through Jesus, can we have real, eternal life.

Verses ten and eleven tell us that the Law was given to bring life. Obeying it was the way to please God. But, disobeying the Law actually brings death. It is the spiritual death that came to Adam and Eve when they did what they were told not to do.

So, Paul says the Law, God’s commandment, is holy. It is as far from sin as it could possibly be. When humans ignore the Law there is spiritual death. We could say that what is forgivable in a child is not so in an adult. *Adults know better.*

Sin took the Law and made it into something bad. Sin is really bad!

**Scripture Memory: “The Law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.” Romans 7:12**

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

### **For the Teacher:**

***Lesson Goal: To teach students that sin is bad. It breaks God’s heart.***

1. Paul said that no one had kept the whole law. (Romans 2:27) He said that no one is justified by the Law. (3:20) He argued that the believer is not under the Law. (6:14) He said the he, himself, had died to the law. (7:4)
2. Jesus placed the reality of sin in the heart, not in outward actions. Several times in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) Jesus says, “You have heard it said, but I say unto you...” He was reinterpreting the Law which speaks of things you do or don’t do. And, He was saying that even if you don’t do it, it is sin because you thought it.
3. In Colossians 3:5, Paul said, “Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. He equates evil desire (covetousness) with idolatry.
4. A. M. Hunter said, “There is no period in life to which a man can look back as the time when he had no conscience. Still, there comes a day when we come rudely up against the demands of the moral law.”
5. Eve was told that even though God had said they would die, they really wouldn’t die. That was true of physical death. What Satan didn’t tell them was that they would die an eternal death much worse than physical death. The commandment not to eat of the tree didn’t kill them. Sin killed them. Their refusal to obey the commandment wasn’t the fault of the commandment. The commandment was directed toward life.
6. William Barclay said, “The awfulness of sin is shown by the fact that it could take a fine thing and make it a weapon of evil. That is what sin does. It can take the loveliness of love and turn it into lust. It can take the honorable desire for independence and turn it into the obsession for money and for power. It can take the beauty of friendship and use it as a seduction to the wrong things.”
7. This lesson provides an opportunity for you, the teacher, to emphasize the fact that all sin is against God and that it results from human defiance of good and healthy rules of good behavior and relationship.

# Romans

## Right With God

Lesson Twenty-Nine

Page 4 of 4

### *Student Worksheet*

## Sin Is Really Bad

=Paul wants us to see that those who have the \_\_\_\_\_ understand that sin is against \_\_\_\_\_. It makes sin uglier. It makes \_\_\_\_\_ much more than going against one's conscience. \_\_\_\_\_ is really bad!

=The fault is not in the \_\_\_\_\_, but in our reaction to it.

=The Law doesn't cause \_\_\_\_\_, our \_\_\_\_\_ against it *is* sin.

=In the light of the Law, actually all God's word, we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves as we really \_\_\_\_\_. Sin has full control in our lives, and only through \_\_\_\_\_, can we have real, eternal life.

=Disobeying the Law actually brings \_\_\_\_\_. It is the spiritual death that came to Adam and Eve when they did what they were \_\_\_\_\_ not to do.

=Paul says the \_\_\_\_\_, God's commandment, is \_\_\_\_\_. It is as far from sin as it could possibly be. When humans \_\_\_\_\_ the Law there is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. We could say that what is forgivable in a \_\_\_\_\_ is not so in an \_\_\_\_\_. Adults know better.

**Scripture Memory: "The Law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good."  
Romans 7:12**

#### **A Roman Road to Salvation:**

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

**Romans 6:23a** "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

**Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

**Romans 6:23b** "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

**Romans 10:9, 10** "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

**Romans 10:13** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

**Romans 12:1, 2** "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.