



Have someone read Romans 7:14-25

1. If Paul, the writer of so much of the New Testament of the Bible struggled so much with doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons, why do we think we will be any different? Why?
2. How do you respond to your repeated patterns of sin? Blame others? Make excuses? Berate yourself? Punish yourself? Turn to God for forgiveness? Swear to do better? Bargain with God? Compare yourself to others? Ask Spirit for guidance? Try harder?

Have someone read Romans 8:1-4

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. **3** The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. **4** He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

Watch minute 6:36-15:11 of Eric's teaching.

1. What strikes you about Eric's illustration?

Have someone read Romans 8:5-8

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. **6** So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. **7** For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. **8** That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

1. What does it mean for you to set your mind on the truths in these verses? Where could you start?
2. Eric said, "When you mess up and you feel that conviction in your gut, that feeling is an invitation to come to God. God is saying come to me so you can experience forgiveness and then go live in my freedom. When we accept the invitation of God to come and receive forgiveness, mercy, God's love, even when we mess up, over time, sin will lose its appeal." Have you ever experienced this? Do you believe it?
3. What does it mean for you to set your mind on **seeing God** as these verses describe?
4. What does it mean for you to set your mind on the truth that no condemnation does not absolve us of personal responsibility to reflect the grace and love of God to the people around us.