



**It's Worse Than You Thought**  
***Romans 5:7-19; 7:15-16 (Page 1002)***  
**Message from Pastor Martin Hawley**  
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**The Bottom Line:** It's worse than you thought. You were born bad and acted on it.

**Introduction:** It is difficult to solve a problem when you don't understand what's wrong to begin with. Some of us have been trying to solve US for a long time. Some of you have been trying to solve YOU for a long time.

The problem may be that you don't know what the problem may be.

“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good ...” Romans 7:15-16 NIV

“For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.” Romans 7:18-19 NIV

Why don't we just do what we're supposed to do?

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.” Romans 5:6 NIV

“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.” Romans 5:7 NIV

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 NIV

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.” –Romans 5:12 NIV

**Paul speaks of sin as a noun (a thing), not a verb.**

Sin entered the world like a virus through a host (Adam).

All people, from their sin-stained nature, have sinned and brought judgment on themselves. They are born with the capacity and bent, and then act on it early. Good has to be taught, bad does not. Bad comes naturally.

We were born condemned and then condemned ourselves via our actions.

**Our problem goes deeper than habit and behavior.**

As long as I try to solve ME by addressing MY habits and behaviors, I'm never going to solve the problem.

It makes sense that bad people do some good things because sometimes good things benefit them. But why does a good person do bad things?

It's like there's something IN YOU. Your momma saw it. She said, "What's gotten into you?"

SIN – That's what's gotten into you! Sin is a power.

There are times when the urge to do wrong is so powerful that it seems as if it is your will.

"But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!"

Romans 5:15 NIV

If a mere man could pollute the whole gene pool, imagine what God as man could do.

"Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification." Romans 5:16 NIV

“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!” Romans 5:17 NIV

**Point:** If a single action of a single man could create the generational chaos of sin, think of what the single action of the God-man could do. If Adam could mess it up, imagine how Jesus could fix it up! Fix *you* up!

“Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.” Romans 5:18 NIV

“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:19 NIV

**Conclusion:** It’s difficult to solve a problem when you don’t know what the problem is.

Paul says the problem is deeper than behavior; it is SIN residing in you.

There is something that you may not know ... Paul’s audience did not know it either. So, he begins the next section with “Do you not know ...”

AND ... That’s where we will pick it up next week.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Memorize: Romans 5:8.**
- Read and Meditate on Romans 5-8.**
- Think on Sin as a Noun instead of a Verb.**
- Commit to the Next Three Weeks of *Freedom*.**