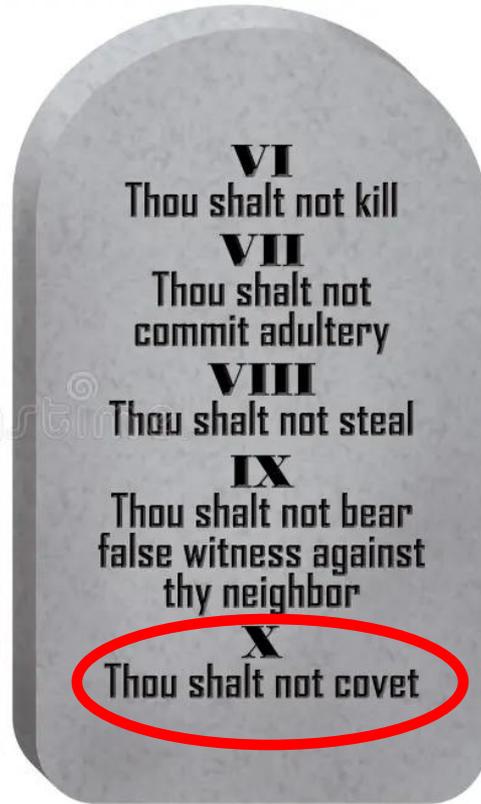
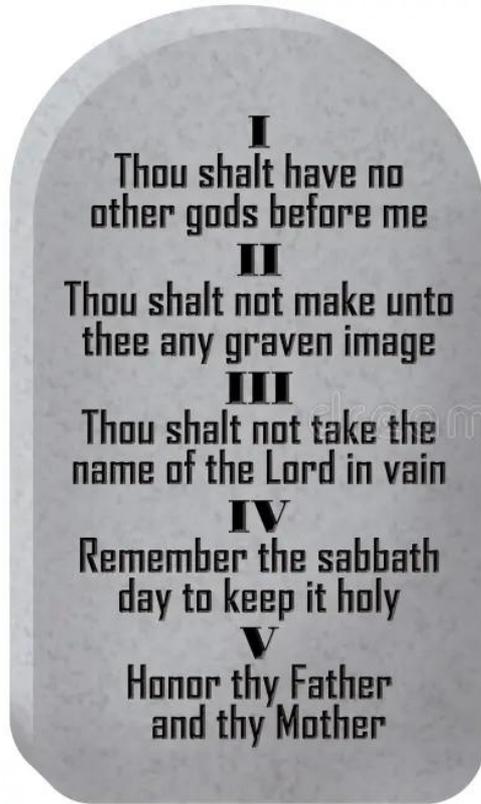




# The Commandment - The Sin Nature - Death



through one man **[the] sin** entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned [in Adam] Rom 5:12b



## Definition and important words used in Chp. 7

**the sin** = the sin nature [Adam's fallen nature], the flesh

**law** – with no article - the principle of law, any man-made law or inherent law

**the Law** – with article – law of Moses - the commands are referred to in **Rom 7:4-14** – Chafer

**the commandment** – **refers to the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment:**  
Ex 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house;  
--- your neighbor's wife; his male servant; his female  
servant --- or anything that belongs to your neighbor.  
(in **Rom. 7:8-13**)

**death** – separation (it never denotes nonexistence)

## Overview of Rom 7:7 to 7:13\*



- The Law is **a teacher** – v:7
  - I have come to know [the] sin
- The Law is **an agitator** – v:8
  - **the commandment** produced coveting in me
- The Law is **a terminator** – v:9 to v:11
  - when **the commandment** came - **I died**,
  - **it** resulted in **death for me** and **it killed me**
  - **the commandment** killed all human hope of keeping it
- The Law is **a revealer** – v:13
  - that through **the commandment** [the] sin would become utterly sinful

## From Last Week!



7a What shall we say then? Is the Law sin?  
May it never be!

7b On the contrary, I would not have come  
to know sin except through **the Law**;

7c for I had not known **evil desire** except that  
the law **kept on saying** "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

**kept on saying** – *lego* – so God's written word is  
pictured as speaking to Paul in past time

- This commandment is the only one that addresses **your thought life** directly. McCalley
- Paul is saying I have not naturally known the specifics of coveting except the Law says "you shall not covet."



8a But **sin**, produced in me coveting of every kind

8b taking opportunity through the commandment

8c for apart from the Law sin is dead

- The sin nature is the subject and the source
- The **verb** is: **produced** - *katergázomai* - to effect, to be the cause of or author of
- So the sin nature is the author of coveting [desiring] in me
- But **produced** has two modifying statements:

## 8<sup>b</sup> taking opportunity through the commandment



- So the sin nature is acting as follows:  
**taking** – *lambanō* – lit: having taken [an event that happened]  
**opportunity** - *aphormē* - a base of operations  
**through** – *dia* – by means of  
**the commandment** – in this case the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment
- The commandment was the launching pad for the sin nature.
- The commandment pushed the sin nature into operation.

Merryman

8c for [because] apart from *the* Law sin *is* dead



apart from - *chōris* - without, separate from

- *the law* – as a principle
- *sin is dead* – sin as principle
- but, sin is never dead!
- sin is an active principle in the universe motivated by Satan\*
- without the commandments of God sin is not realized and everything is relative\*
- Conclusion: without the law, sin as a principle is dead\*
- 1 Cor 15:56b the power of sin is the Law

\* adapted from Merryman

## Today's Verses



<sup>9</sup> I was once alive apart from the Law; but when **the commandment** came, sin became alive and **I died**;

<sup>10</sup> and **this commandment**, which was to result in life, proved to result in **death for me**;

<sup>11</sup> for sin, taking an opportunity through **the commandment**, deceived me and through it **killed me**.

# The Nature and Purpose of the Law\*



- What **Law** is not: The Law is not sin (7:7)
- What the **Law** does:
  - The Law is a standard of right and wrong
  - The Law reflects the sinfulness of the sin nature (7:8,13)
  - The Law provides realization of separation from God (7:9-11)
- What the **Law** is: (7:12)
  - Holy
  - Righteous – the character of the giver
  - Good - beneficial

9a | [Paul] was once alive  
apart from the Law

- Paul uses the personal pronouns **I, me, my** and **myself** 47 times in Chp.7



McCalley

- Paul is speaking of how he was continually living his life in past times [imperfect tense]
- So Paul had apparently, in time past, had not yet had the experience of coming to know the sin nature via the Law\*
- Paul is talking about his condition [not his position]\*
- However in his past, Paul had lived unaware of the Law's true demands and was therefore self-righteous\*
- Phil 3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; **as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.**

\* Merryman/Constable

**9<sup>b</sup> but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died**



- The coming of the commandment was an event in Paul's life when he encountered - YOU SHALL NOT COVET

**sin became alive** – in response to the command

**became alive** - *anazaō* - lit: lived again i.e., it sprang into activity

- the sinful nature regained its strength and vigor, and I died

Wuest

**and I died**

- Paul realized his separation from God [because of his sin nature]

Molloy



10a and this commandment,  
which was to result in life,

- lit: this kind of a commandment\*
- from verse 7 it was “YOU SHALL NOT COVET”

the aim of which was life

Vincent via Wuest

- the idea is toward life\*
- life here is *zoe* - life as God has it
- this is real life [used of eternal life in Scripture]\*
- The command was toward the highest form of life [*zoe*] in contrast to *bios* - physical life and existence\*
- This life can only be obtained by faith, not trying to keep God’s holy and righteous and good commandments

\* Merryman

10b proved to result in  
death for me;



proved to result in – lit: this was for  
this life I found to be to toward death

Wuest

- the contrast here is toward death vs. toward life  
death – spiritual separation from God
- here was a commandment that promised life\*
- when I followed it I found myself in the area of death\*
- Paul's former state of happy innocence has given way to a realization of his actual position before God via the commandment\*

\* Merryman



<sup>11</sup> for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

- Now we will see that “the sin nature” was responsible for two catastrophic results in Paul’s life

<sup>1st</sup> - for [the] sin deceived me

- for the **sinful nature** beguiled me Wuest
- deceived - *exapataō* - to deceive completely, beguile, meaning to lead out of the right way into error – an event
- This word for deceived is the same word used to describe how Eve was deceived by Satan
- 2 Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.



2<sup>nd</sup> - for [the] sin killed me through it [the commandment]

- for the **sinful nature** through it killed me Wuest

killed me - *apokteinō* – spiritual separation from God,

- Next, the middle part of the verse gives us the details how this happened

for sin taking an opportunity through the commandment

- **taking** – *lambanō* - to take, lay hold of – having taken
- **opportunity** - *aphormē* - a starting point, a base of operations
- this was the launching pad for the **sin nature**

<sup>11</sup> for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.



## More thoughts on verse 11:\*

- I expected one thing out of the commandment but experienced another
- I expected life by [thinking I could] obey the commandment but I found myself in death [separation from God]
- God did not give the Law to deceive Paul
- It is **the sin nature** that caused the Law to be deceptive
- It is **the sin nature** that deceived Paul, not the Law

\* Merryman

# Final Thoughts\*



- As I come to know Christ – His ways, His thoughts, His mind
- I also have come to know **my flesh**\*\* [in contrast with Christ]
- Next to knowing Christ, nothing is as important as knowing **my flesh**
- I see all the subtleties of my flesh
  - Hidden agendas
  - Seeking personal influence
  - Self preservation and therefore being defensive
  - Seeking popularity, reputation, prestige and acceptance
- All this is the modus operandi of **the flesh**
- The world says it's ok – because we all do this
- Jer 17:9 The heart [sin nature] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? \*\* my Sin Nature \* Hal Molloy