

Law and the Commandment in Romans 7:4 -11



4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET".

8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.

9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;

10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;

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

Romans 7:12 -14



12 So then, the Law is holy,
and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

13 Therefore did that which is good become
a cause of death for me? May it never be!
Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown
to be sin by effecting my death through
that which is good, so that through
the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual,
but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

“sins vs. sin” in the New Testament



Fruit = personal sins
1 Cor. 15:3 --- Christ died for our sins

Root = sin (sin nature)
Rom. 6:10 --- He died unto sin (nature)



Questions to think about

What does the Law and the commandment tell us about God ?

How are we to view our sin nature ?

What is Christ's relationship to the Law and the commandment ?

Romans 7:12 -14



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and the commandment is holy
and righteous and good.



the Law is holy

- holy is an adjective that describes the subject
- holy (hagios) - fundamentally signifies "separated"
and hence, in Scripture in its moral and spiritual significance,
separated from sin and therefore consecrated to God, sacred.
(Vine's)
- what else is described as holy in Scripture?

“is holy” in Scripture



Ps 77:13	13 Your way, O God, is holy ; What god is great like our God?
Isa 57:15	15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy , "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.
Act 7:33	33 "BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, 'TAKE OFF THE SANDALS FROM YOUR FEET, FOR THE PLACE ON WHICH YOU ARE STANDING IS HOLY GROUND.
Rev 3:7	7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy , who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

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the commandment is holy and righteous and good

- commandment (entolē) - denotes, in general, "an injunction, charge, precept, commandment." It is the most frequent term, and is used of moral and religious precepts. (Vine's)
- commandment is a singular noun in this passage
- see other times that "the commandment" is used in Romans
- holy, righteous and good are all adjectives that describes the commandment
- righteous - signifies "just," without prejudice or partiality, e.g., of the judgment of God
- good - describes that which, being "good" in its character or constitution, is beneficial in its effect. Vine's

“the commandment” in Romans



Ro 7:8	8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment , produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.
Ro 7:9	9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;
Ro 7:11	11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment , deceived me and through it killed me.
Ro 7:12	12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.
Ro 7:13	13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

Romans 7:12 -14



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Romans 7:13



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a cause of death for me?

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so that through the commandment
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Romans 7:13a



Therefore did that which is good become
a cause of death for me?

May it never be!

- good became (to me) death?
 - good refers to “the commandment” in verse 12
 - become (ginomai) – to come into a new state of being
 - example of ginomai in John 1:14

Therefore, that which is good, to me did it become death?

(Wuest)

answer: may it never be !

“May it never be” in Romans



Ro 3:4	4 May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, "THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED."
Ro 3:6	6 May it never be! For otherwise, how will God judge the world?
Ro 3:31	31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.
Ro 6:2	2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?
Ro 6:15	15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!
Ro 7:7	7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."
Ro 9:14	14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

Romans 7:13a



Therefore did that which is good become
a cause of death for me?

May it never be!

Rather it was sin,

- it was the sin nature that caused my death (separation)
 - the good (commandment) is holy and righteous
- other verses from Romans 7:1 to 11 on the sin nature
 - the sinful passions (of the sin nature), --- were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. (v:5)
 - but sin (sin nature), --- produced in me coveting of every kind (v:8)
 - for sin (sin nature), --- deceived me and through it killed me (v:11)

Romans 7:13b



in order that it might be shown to be sin
by effecting my death through that which is good,

shown – phainō (aorist, subjunctive, passive)

In the Passive, "to be brought forth into light, to become evident, to appear."
(Vines)

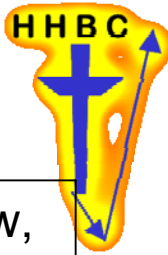
see Heb. 11:3

effecting – katergazomai (present, passive)

"to work out, to effect, produce, to be the cause or author of" (Zodhiates)

see next chart for usage in other Scriptures

“effecting” in Romans



Ro 4:15	15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.
Ro 5:3	3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;
Ro 7:8	8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.
2 Cor 4:17	17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
2 Cor 7:10	10 For the sorrow that is according to <i>the will of God</i> produces a repentance without regret, <i>leading</i> to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Romans 7:13b



in order that it might be shown to be sin
by effecting my death through that which is good,

- in order that **or** with a purpose that
- it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death
or
the sin nature may be shown working death
- through that which is good
or
through the good (commandment)

Romans 7:13c



so that through the commandment
sin would become utterly sinful.

- so that **or** with a purpose that

- sin would become utterly sinful

or

the sin nature comes into a new utterly sinful state of being

utterly – kata huperbole - "a throwing beyond," hence, "a surpassing, an excellence," It is used with *kata*, "according to," signifying "beyond measure, exceedingly" – Gal 1:13 & 1 Cor 12:31

- through the commandment

Romans 7:12 -14



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- We know
 - know is oida – full knowledge in the perfect tense
- the Law is spiritual
 - spiritual is an adjective describing the Law
- I am of the flesh
 - flesh – *sarkikos* from *sarx*, "flesh," signifies "having the nature of flesh," i.e., sensual, controlled by animal appetites, governed by human nature, instead of by the Spirit of God – translated "carnal" in JKV
also see 1 Cor 2:14 to 3:1
- sold into bondage to sin
 - "sold into bondage" is in the perfect tense and passive voice

Summary of Romans 7:12-14



- The Law is holy
- The commandment is holy, righteous and good
- The good (the commandment) was not the cause of my death (separation)
- The sin nature was the cause of my death (separation)
- The sin nature was working death through the good (commandment) – brought into light by the good
- The sin nature is utterly (beyond measure) sinful through the commandment (it exposes the sin nature)
- The Law is spiritual
- I am carnal having been sold into bondage to the sin nature