

# Sin's Power To Misuse God's Law

(Rom 7:8)

## I. Terms

A) "Sin"- As a nature, a power present in us

B) "Taking occasion"- Used multiple ways:

1. A starting point, the place from which to launch a journey, or an effort
  - i. James 1:14-15- The place from which sin begins its work
2. In military as a base of operations, command center
  - i. "Sin, using the law (10<sup>th</sup> comm.) as a base of operations from which point it begins its attack"
3. A fulcrum, that which leverages a great weight
  - i. "Sin, using the law (10<sup>th</sup> comm.) as a fulcrum, is able to move our resistance and produce its desired fruit

C) "Wrought"- To work powerfully and effectually, to firmly accomplish, to hammer out

D) "Concupiscence"- Evil desire, overwhelming lust, passionate want

1. Gen 6:5 & 8:21

E) "All manner"- Nothing is out of bounds or off limits in my mind's evil workings

F) "In me"- in the very heart of man

1. Mark 7:20-23- The evil heart of man

## II. The power of sin

A) Sin is not simply a negative, a lack of good or perfection

1. Man hates the idea of sin, and is always trying to redefine it or mitigate it
  - i. "That's an archaic idea"
  - ii. "There is no such thing, it's simply we've not reached the pinnacle yet in our evolution"
  - iii. "There is no sin, just a lack of goodness"
  - iv. "What they called sin in old times is actually various diseases, or the affect of social conditions"
  - v. "Sin is simply a term they invented to apply restrictions, and hamper man"
  - vi. "Sin is just the absence of certain qualities, and they need to be drawn out of the man, who is basically good by nature"
2. Paul says here that sin is a positive power, working within every man
  - i. Sin is so powerful, it can even use the holy Law of God to bring about its fruit
    - a) Rom 5:21- Sin hath "reigned" (it's a monarch with an empire)

- b) Rom 6:14- Sin has “dominion” (a negative or lack of a thing can’t rule)
- c) Rom 6:16-17- Sin is a slave master with absolute control over every subject

### III. How does sin use the law?

#### A) It arouses the rebellion within us

1. Every sinner is born in rebellion against God
  - i. Rom 8:7- Carnal mind at enmity with God
  - ii. Col 1:21- Alienated in our mind by wicked works
2. Law comes before a man and his inborn self-assertiveness is called into action
  - i. Man in sin desires to be autonomous
  - ii. Man in sin does not want to bow to anyone
  - iii. Man in sin resents the very idea of law or restriction
    - a) These are the main reasons for atheism: by nature man hates to bow the knee to God
    - b) 666- Man in complete rebellion against God openly
  - iv. Man in sin hates the very notion of judgment or penalty
    - a) Look at the school system today
    - b) Look at crime in our cities
3. The hatred and rebellion are already in every man, the law simply inflames it
  - i. Eph 2:1-3
  - ii. Tit 2:14

#### B) It uses the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment and says this is completely unfair and unreasonable

1. Matt 5:27-28- Man in sin says “this is ridiculous, or you’re being fanatical”
2. Man in sin says “who am I hurting in my mind?”
  - i. This is because man in sin thinks sin can only be against man
    - a) Yet the truth is if the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment is the greatest, then the greatest sin is not keeping it
3. Man in sin says “that is an impossible standard”
  - i. Not realizing that is the great point the law of God makes
4. When a man feels that he is being treated unfairly, that naturally inflames his rebellion and hatred and results in more sin and more rebellion

#### C) Sin uses the law to insinuate ideas (curiosity) that were not there before the law came

1. Sin uses the law as an introduction to desire, which leads to lust, and ends in action

2. Man in sin hears the commandment, and then asks, “why are people doing this? It must feel good or be pleasing in some way”
    - i. Example of the mushrooms by cow pond
  3. Man in sin begins to contemplate this sin, and begins to picture himself committing it, sampling it in his mind
    - i. Example of pornography
    - ii. Tit 1:15- To the defiles mind, all things are defiled
- D) Sin uses the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment to produce hopelessness and lead into antinomianism
1. Man in sin says “what’s the use!”
  2. Man in sin will profess to be saved and then antinomianism leads him to sin all the more, yet with a freedom of mind
    - i. Sin is so powerful it can even suggest that sin itself is a good thing
    - ii. This is the entire purpose of Rom ch 6

#### IV. Application

- A) If we do not understand the power of sin, we can never understand the word of God nor any of the doctrines of Christ
1. We will never understand the “new birth”
  2. We will never understand why Christ had to die
  3. We will never understand the significance of the resurrection
  4. We will never understand the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit
  5. We will never understand nor admit the doctrine of election
    - i. It become pure ridiculousness to believe we can “decide for Christ” when we have understood the power of sin
- B) It proves not only can we never be justified by the law, but we also can never be sanctified by that same law relationship either
1. Sin is so powerful, it works the exact opposite
    - i. It blinds men to justification through supposed self righteousness
    - ii. It hinders sanctification when the saved man attempts to apply the same principle as when “under the law”
      - a) The believer must see that we are in a totally new relationship to the law (Rom 7:1-4)
- C) It proves the foolishness of the modern doctrines of “social gospel” or WWJD movement
1. It explains why we are in our current condition, and why things are and have always been as they are in the world
    - i. “Wars and rumors of wars....”
- D) It proves man’s utter and complete need of God in a “double portion” kind of way
1. The thing created always requires its creator, but foolish man denies that