

## I. INTRO/REVIEW

- A. Untangled
  - How good is good enough, or how bad is too bad?
- B. We are all guilty and sentenced to death
  - The purpose and problem of the law

**Galatians 3:21-22 (NLT)** Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

- C. God's one-man plan

**Romans 5:12 (NLT)** When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

**Galatians 3:13-14 (NKJV)** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

- D. How free are we?

**Galatians 5:1 (NLT)** So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

**Psalms 38:4 (NLT)** My guilt overwhelms me—it is a burden too heavy to bear.

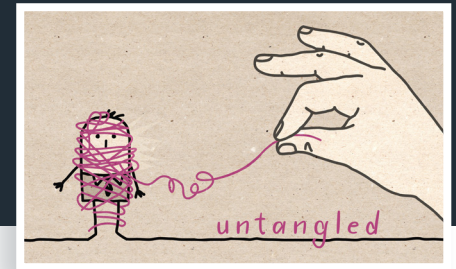
- What about sin?

**Romans 6:15 (NLT)** Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not!

## II. A HUMAN EXPERIENCE

- A. Have you ever experienced this?

**Romans 7:21-25 (NLT)** I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.



### B. The nature of sin is broken through death

**Romans 6:6-7 (NLT)** We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

**Romans 6:11 (NLT)** So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

### C. The flesh vs the Spirit

**Galatians 5:13-14 (NLT)** For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**Galatians 5:16 (NLT)** So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

## III. WHY SHOULD I DO GOOD?

### A. Seedtime and harvest

- Your harvest in life is totally dependent on the seeds you sow

**Galatians 6:7-10 (NLT)** Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

**Luke 6:37-38 (NLT)** "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

**1 Peter 3:9-12 (NLT)** Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil."

**Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)** "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.