

Bad Law, Good Law

ROMANS 7:1-13

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Dave Winters

The law is not your **LORD**, Jesus is. (v. 1-6)

new marriage v. 1-4 Ephesians 2:4-6

» **new crops** v. 4-6 Galatians 5:22-24

The law doesn't kill, **SIN KILLS**. (v. 7-11)

the law activates sin v. 7 Mark 7:14-23

sin kills v. 8-11

↕ For the law is **GOOD** and drives you to Jesus. (v. 12-13)

the law is good Psalm 1:1-2, Psalm 119:33-35

sin makes grace amazing 2 Corinthians 9:8, Romans 5:15

applications



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

Have you ever had something in your life that was meant to help you, but somehow it ended up frustrating you instead? What made it turn out that way?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. 📖 **Read Romans 7:1-13 outloud.** Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

2. 📖 **Romans 7:1–6** describes a change in relationship, not just a change in behavior. What does it look like in real life to live as though Jesus is your Lord rather than treating rules, performance, or self-effort as your master?

3. 📖 **Read Ephesians 2:4–6 alongside Romans 7:1–4.** What do these passages show about your union with Christ? How does being joined to Christ reshape the way you think about obedience, identity, and belonging?

4. In **Romans 7:4–6**, Paul says believers are meant to “bear fruit for God.”
 - 📖 **Read Galatians 5:22–24.** Which fruit of the Spirit do you most want God to grow in your life right now?
 - What tends to compete with that fruit these days?

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



Secure Son/Daughter

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



Courageous Connector

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



Ready Storyteller

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



Legacy Builder

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the **Word**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Romans 7:7-10 (NIV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

7 What should we say **then**? That the law is sin? Not at all! I **wouldn't** have **known** what sin was **unless** the law had **told** me. The law **said**, "Do not **want** what **belongs** to **other people**." If the law hadn't **said** that, I would not have **known** what it was **like** to **want** what **belonged** to **others**.⁸ But the commandment **gave** sin an **opportunity**. Sin **caused** me to **want** all **kinds** of **things** that **belonged** to **others**. No one can **break** a law that doesn't **exist**.⁹ Before I **knew** about the law, I was **alive**. But **then** the **commandment** came. Sin **came** to **life**, and I **died**.¹⁰ I **found** that the **commandment** that was **supposed** to **bring** **life** **actually** brought death.

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- Romans 7:7–11** shows that the problem is not the law itself but the sin living in us. Why is it important to distinguish between what *is* good and what sin *does with* what is good?

 - Where do you see that same dynamic at work in ordinary life?
- Read Mark 7:14–23 and compare it with Romans 7:7–13.** What do these passages reveal about where sin comes from?

 - How does that challenge the tendency to blame circumstances, other people, or external pressures for what is wrong in us?

Taking It Home

- One of the roles we're aiming to grow in is that of a **Secure Son/Daughter** as we follow Jesus together.

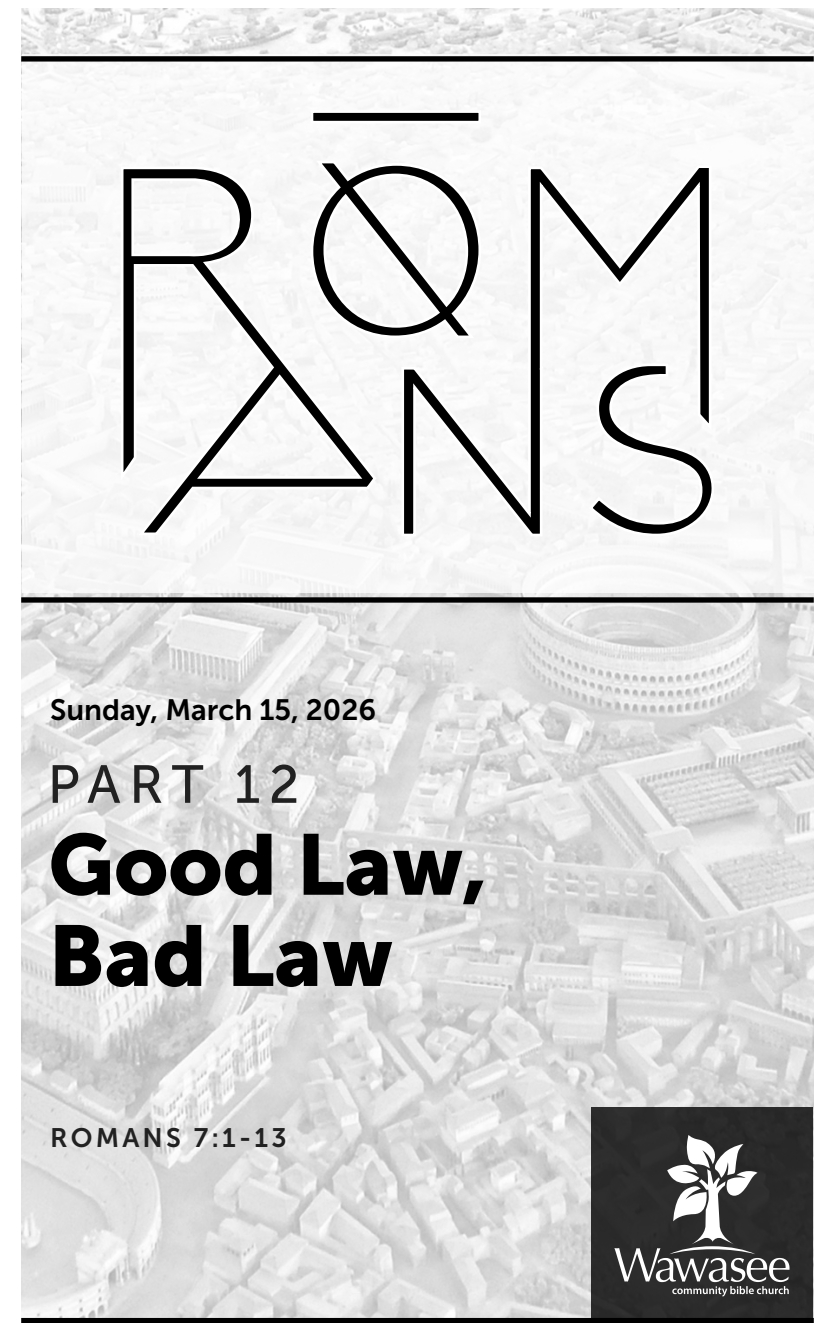
 - How does **Romans 7:1–6** help a believer live more like a loved child of God rather than someone still trying to earn acceptance?
 - Where are you most tempted to drift back into striving?

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.


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 PART 12
**Good Law,
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 ROMANS 7:1-13



Wawasee
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