



Do you ever feel like life is passing you by? In the chaos of our world, it can be easy to feel like we're just going through the motions of life without being fully engaged and present. This way of living can leave us feeling disconnected, distracted, and even disillusioned. The book of Romans sheds light and hope on how we can have peace and joy with God at the center of our world.

Week Seven: Changing Your Ways

Text: Romans 7

Discussion Questions: *(Urge your group members to attend worship or watch the sermon online in order to best participate in your discussion time.)*

The following are based on the "My Application" Questions found in the bulletin this week. *(Leader, encourage your group members to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.)*

- 1) When we objectively consider our actions, we sometimes find that they don't line up with our intentions. How do you relate to Paul's explanation of the inner tension between what he does and what he wants to do?
- 2) All of Paul's attempts to change his ways fall short. He exclaims that he is a failure in verse 24. After offering a desperate cry for help, where does he find it?
- 3) What kinds of things form your identity? Compare Romans 7:24-25 with Philippians 3:4-9. Where did Paul find his identity, before and after encountering Jesus?
- 4) In Romans 8:1-4, we see how Christ resolves the inner conflicts and contradictions that are described in Romans 7. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? How does finding your identity in Christ change the motivation for your actions?

Prayer Tips

We've been singing a song at Church lately that affirms, "I'm no longer a slave to Fear...I am a child of God." This echoes the message of this passage, "I'm no longer a slave to Sin and Death..." Turn that message into the pattern of your prayer time this week. As you spend time thanking God that He has changed your identity through Jesus, sum up each of your praises with:

"I'm no longer a slave to _____. I am a child of God!"

Scripture Memory

*What a wretched man I am!
Who will rescue me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Romans 7:24-25a NIV

Application

1. **Baptism Opportunity:** If you have accepted God's gift of eternal life through Jesus, but you've never announced it via baptism, this Summer you have a great opportunity. Outdoor baptisms will be hosted by each campus. Invite your small group to share the celebration with you. Invite your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers to witness the event and hear your testimony. Go to www.hcbc.com/baptism for more details.
2. **The Great Adventure is HERE!** How is your group participating? Pray for those who are in the thick of the adventure this week. Pray that you will each have the opportunity to share the gospel.

Begin to think and pray: How will you follow up on the spiritual connections you make this week? Don't let the adventure end on Friday night!