

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	Learning to Possess Your Possessions
SERMON REFERENCE:	Romans 7:1-4
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2060

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Many Christians are not living up to their profession in Christ.
 - i) Many people are saved, but they don't act like it.
 - ii) They're not living victorious lives.
 - iii) There seems to be a contradiction between what the Bible says they are in Christ and what they are in reality.
- b) The Bible says that we are complete in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Colossians 2:10
 - ii) We don't have need of anything in the spiritual realm.
- c) The Bible says, concerning those of us who are saved, that we are overcomers.
 - i) 1 John 5:4
 - ii) Yet, most believers live as though they are overcome, not overcomers.
 - (1) They are victims rather than victors.
- d) The Bible says that when we're saved, we have peace that passes understanding and joy unspeakable and full of glory.
 - i) Philippians 4:7
 - ii) 1 Peter 1:8
- e) John 4:14
 - i) Are you completely satisfied in the Lord Jesus?
- f) The Bible teaches in Romans 8 that we are more than conquerors.
 - i) Romans 8:37
 - ii) Are you more than a conqueror?
- g) Why does there seem to be a contradiction between what the Bible says we are and what reality shows that we are?
 - i) Do you think that you're right, and the Bible is wrong?
 - ii) Many of us want to dumb down the Bible to match our lives rather than bring our lives up to the Bible.
- h) In our Christian lives, we need to bring our lives up to the standard that God has for us.
 - i) We are overcomers.
 - ii) We do have peace that passes understanding.
 - iii) We need not make the Bible match our lives but to make our lives match the Bible.
- i) The answer to this problem is found in two key words:
 - i) Provision
 - (1) This is what God does.
 - (2) God has made provision for us.
 - ii) Appropriation
 - (1) God's provision for us does us no good until we appropriate what He has done for us.
- j) What is the difference between provision and appropriation?
 - i) When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He died for the world.
 - (1) 1 John 2:2

- (a) “Propitiation” means “satisfaction.”
 - (b) Jesus is the satisfaction for our sins and the sins of the whole world.
- (2) John 1:29
- ii) If Jesus died for the sins of the world, then why is there still sin in the world?
 - (1) Because people have not appropriated what Jesus did on the cross.
 - (a) They have not possessed their possessions.
 - (2) John 3:18
 - (3) Provision has been made, but people have not appropriated that which is theirs.
- iii) Provision is on one hand, and appropriation is on the other hand.
- iv) When we get saved, we are crucified with Christ.
 - (1) When Jesus died, His death had our name on it.
 - (2) Colossians 3:3
- v) Colossians 3:5
 - (1) “Mortify” means “put to death.”
 - (2) This is not a contradiction from Colossians 3:3, which says that we are already dead.
 - (a) Technically, we are dead with Christ.
 - (b) Practically, we must appropriate what we have in the Lord Jesus.
- vi) Joshua 1:3
 - (1) The children of Israel came out of Egypt and were going into Canaan.
 - (a) They were coming out of the land of bondage into the land of blessing.
 - (2) This verse does not say, “Will I give you,” but it says, “I have already given it to you.”
 - (a) The land was theirs, but they had to possess their possessions.
- vii) As Christians, we have so much that we have not yet possessed.
- viii) There is God’s provision, but there must be our appropriation.
 - (1) It doesn’t matter what God has done for us; if we don’t appropriate it, then it won’t be ours.
 - (2) For example, if we have books in our library at home that we haven’t yet read, the books are ours, but we haven’t possessed our possessions.
 - (a) The books are there, but they’re doing us no good.
 - (b) We haven’t appropriated that which is ours.
- k) Romans 7:1-4
 - i) By divine inspiration, the Apostle Paul gives us an object lesson.
 - ii) Paul gives us the story of a woman who is married to a man; Paul is making an analogy.
 - (1) The woman is married to Mr. Law.
 - (a) The law of the Lord is perfect, so she’s married to a perfect man.
 - (i) Psalm 19:7

- (b) Mr. Law is a very rigid man with extremely high standards.
 - (i) He tells his wife what to do and what not to do.
 - (2) The woman's intentions are good.
 - (a) She intends to obey her husband and do everything that he tells her to do.
 - (b) But in the course of the day, she realizes that she did not do everything he told her to do.
 - (i) And she did some things he told her not to do.
 - (3) When the husband finds out that she did not do all that she was supposed to do and did some things that she wasn't supposed to do, he scolds her.
 - (a) She feels guilty and promises to do better tomorrow.
 - (4) He gives her instructions for tomorrow.
 - (a) When he returns home, he finds that she's failed again.
 - (5) After a while, she decides that she doesn't want to be married to a perfect man because she can't please him.
 - (a) She cannot get out of the marriage.
 - (i) God's plan is not that way.
 - (b) She is married to him as long as they live.
 - (6) She decides to wait until Mr. Law dies, and then she'll be free.
 - (a) She now wants to marry Mr. Love.
 - (b) But Mr. Law is not going to die.
 - (i) Matthew 5:18
 - (7) She then realizes that if she dies, then she can be married to Mr. Love.
 - iii) Romans 7:4
 - (1) When Paul mentions the body of Christ in this verse, he is talking about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
 - iv) Paul is saying in this passage that by nature, we are married to the law.
 - (1) The law makes demands upon us that we can't meet, no matter how hard we try.
 - v) But when Jesus Christ died, we died with Him.
 - (1) We became dead to the law by the body of Christ.
 - (2) We died with Him, we were buried with Him, and we are raised with Him.
 - (a) We have a new life.
 - vi) We are the bride of Christ.
 - l) Today's message will show us steps that we can take to possess our possessions.
- 2) LEARN DYING AND START LIVING
- a) We will never possess our possessions until we come to the end of ourselves.
 - i) The woman in Paul's analogy had to die.
 - (1) We have to die to the old ways.
 - b) Matthew 16:24

- i) A cross is for dying upon.
 - (1) It is the old man or old woman who dies so that we can become a new person.
 - c) Mark 8:35
 - i) When we lose our life for Jesus' sake and the Gospel's, then we find it.
 - d) We have to go through something to get to something.
 - i) We have to go through death to get to Heaven.
 - ii) And you have to go through death to yourself to get to the victorious life.
 - e) The reason many Christians are not filled with the Spirit is because they are so full of themselves that there's not enough room for the Spirit.
 - i) We have to come to the end of ourselves and learn dying so that we can start living.
 - f) John 10:10
 - i) Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.
 - (1) But we can't have this abundant life until we're sick and tired of that old life.
 - (2) We can't have this abundant life until we say that because Jesus died, we died with Him.
 - (a) And when He rose, we rose with Him.
- 3) STOP TRYING AND START TRUSTING (ROMANS 7:7)
- a) Romans 7:7
 - i) We would not have known sin except by the law.
 - b) In Romans 7:7-24, there are some words that stand out over and over again:
 - i) "I"
 - (1) The perpendicular pronoun "I" stands out more than any other.
 - (a) "I," "me," or "my" are used over 40 times in these verses.
 - (2) Romans 7:7
 - (3) Romans 7:9
 - (4) Romans 7:10
 - (5) Romans 7:11
 - (6) Romans 7:13
 - (7) Romans 7:14
 - (8) Romans 7:15
 - ii) "Law"
 - (1) The key in these passages is Paul and the law.
 - (2) In Paul's analogy, the woman is married to Mr. Law.
 - (a) She can't please Mr. Law.
 - (b) She then marries Mr. Love.
 - (i) Mr. Love is compassionate and not rigid like Mr. Law.
 - (c) But she finds that Mr. Love's requirements are higher than Mr. Law's.
 - (i) Mr. Law said to go one mile, but Mr. Love said to go two miles.
 - 1. Matthew 5:41

- (ii) Mr. Law said, “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth;” but Mr. Love said to love your enemies and do good to those who persecute you.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 19:21
 - 2. Matthew 5:44
 - (3) A lost person cannot keep the law of God, and neither can a saved person by himself.
 - (a) Some believe that when they get saved, they won’t sin anymore.
 - (i) But the old flesh rises up, and we fail.
 - (b) The devil will try to convince us that we weren’t saved at all.
 - (c) Romans 7:18
- c) Romans 7:21-23
 - i) This is Paul’s testimony as a young, carnal Christian.
 - (1) Paul wasn’t a hypocrite; he loved God in his heart.
 - ii) Romans 7:23
 - (1) The law of his mind was the love that he had for God.
 - (2) But there was another war going on in his members:
 - (a) In his eyes, ears, tongue.
- d) The Apostle Paul said that there are two laws:
 - i) The law of sin
 - (1) The law of sin is the law that makes us do what we do.
 - (a) We are sinners.
 - (b) There is a principle that’s in us, and it’s called the flesh.
 - (c) We have a predisposition called the law of sin.
 - (2) The law of sin is like the law of gravity.
 - (a) It is working all the time.
 - (b) The law of gravity is that downward pull.
 - (3) Paul came to the place where he was almost brokenhearted.
 - (a) Romans 7:24-25
 - (i) Deliverance comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - (4) The way we live the victorious life is not by trying.
 - (a) It is not you and the law.
 - (b) God has provided a victory for us.
 - (i) That victory is with Jesus Christ.
 - (5) In the analogy of the woman who marries Mr. Love, she discovers several things:
 - (a) She and Mr. Love have a joint banking account.
 - (b) Everything Mr. Love tells her to do, he does it with her.
 - (i) Every demand upon our life is a demand upon Jesus Christ who lives in us.
 - (6) Deliverance comes through Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Romans 7:25
 - ii) The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
 - (1) Romans 8:1-2

- (a) In Romans 7:24-25, the Spirit is not mentioned at all.
 - (b) Beginning in Romans 8:1, there is a change.
 - (2) Romans 8:4
 - (3) Romans 8:9
 - (a) In order to live the Christian life, it is the Holy Spirit of God in us.
 - (4) Romans 8:2
 - (5) We can't live the Christian life on our own, and God never said we could.
 - (a) But God can and always said He would.
 - (6) When we stop trying and start trusting the Lord, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes us free from the law of sin and death.
- 4) QUIT CRYING AND START PRAISING (ROMANS 7:24)
- a) Romans 7:24
 - b) We thank God through Jesus Christ.
 - c) God didn't save us to have us live a failing life.
 - i) He saved us that we might live a victorious life.
 - ii) By His grace and for His glory, we will possess our possessions.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) Only Christians can possess their possessions.
 - b) No unbeliever can live a victorious life.
 - i) No unbeliever can have the Spirit of God in Him.
 - (1) You must be saved.
 - c) In order to be saved, you must receive the gift of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) If you come to Jesus in repentance and faith and ask Him to save you, He will.
 - ii) He will save you today and will keep you saved if you trust Him.
 - (1) Romans 10:13
 - d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Acts 16:31
 - iv) John 3:16