

DIGDEEPER

June 11th, 2017

Romans 7:7-25

Dr. Richard Rogers ([you can listen here](#))

REVIEW IT

Read Romans 7:7-25

THINK ABOUT IT

At some point, you must throw off the leash of performance (the law) and live by grace. However, it's important to remember that the concept of grace originated with God, not with us. For us, grace must be a place of healthy boundaries. While it is free and allows us to live free, it allows us to live where we don't have to perform, don't have to work to earn love, or make God happy. It is a safe and healthy place. Safe places have safe boundaries. Living in grace and outside of performance makes other people, especially those who aren't living free, uncomfortable, angry, look down on us, or judge us. Then, this tension often causes us to feel like we have to step out of free living to make someone else feel comfortable or happy--to perform, instead of staying in God's safe and healthy boundaries of grace and not taking on someone else's happiness by performing.

TALK ABOUT IT

- 1) How do you love people without performing for them?
- 2) How do you love God without performing for him?
- 3) How do we live in grace and relationship with God and love His people without becoming people pleasers and performance based?
- 4) What is the significance for our lives in verses 14-25 if Paul is describing his experiences as a believer?
- 5) What is the significance for our lives in verses 14-25 if Paul is describing his experiences as an unbeliever?
- 6) Was there ever a time in your life prior to trusting Christ when you tried to "turn over a new leaf," to change your life for the better? How did it turn out?

LIVE IT

Take time this week to reflect on how you are living--mired by performance or in the freedom of grace? What is an area where you are struggling with performance? Your time alone with God? In the way you serve? Your prayer life? Your giving? What are some intentional steps you can take to better recognize the temptations to perform, ask God to enter this struggle with you, and help release you to live in His grace?