



## When !t Hits the Fan - Part 1

Self-Destruction  
Romans 7:15-25

June 16th, 2019



Major Idea of the Series - When !t Hits the Fan!!!

We are going to talk about some CRAZY, real, raw and honest discussions this summer about how to deal with catastrophe in your life.

-Depression, Marriage, Health, Finances, Relationships, etc.

Because - many times - life hits the fan

Sometimes it's NOT your fault.

It just happened - accident - didn't plan, cause or instigate it

It just happened - now you have to live with the CHAOS

**\*FREAKONOMICS - Angela Duckworth & Katie Milkman**

Behavioral Scientists & Professors - University of Pennsylvania

Conducting an Experiment to improve - Health, Education, Personal Finance

*"The problem with human beings, is that they repeatedly make decisions that undermine their own want or well being."*

I think we can ALL feel that tension in our lives:

Do what FEELS good now - that undermines what is BETTER later

Snooze Button

Healthy Eating - Physical Fitness

Time and Financial Management

Treat people in a way that ruins relationships

We ALL do things - that we KNOW will make life HARDER for us - WHY?

The **Apostle Paul (elab)**, to a Roman Audience seems to say the same thing

**Romans 7:15-17**

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

### Romans 7:18-20

For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

### Romans 7:21-23

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

### Romans 7:24-25

what a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

I think we can all recognize - that we do things that KEEP us from better

When you are a Jesus Follower/Christian - it raises the Question:

**-Am I really a Christian?**

-If I were, would I have the same, constant struggle

-I thought we were supposed to have VICTORY in Jesus???

But, as we look at these verses **AGAIN**, see if you don't connect with this:

### Romans 7:15

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but **what I hate I do**.

### Romans 7:16

And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that **the law** is good.

### Romans 7:17

As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is **sin** living in me.

### Romans 7:18

For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, **but I cannot carry it out.**

### Romans 7:19-21

For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: **Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.**

We find ourselves struggling between what we know is right  
what we WANT to do  
and what actually happens in our lives.

We read a book, hear a sermon, go to a bible-study – decide that we are going to change – we have the desire to change - New Years Resolution  
-But come MONDAY – we have already messed it up

**It happens to me all the time!**

KINDA ENCOURAGING TO ME that it even happened to PAUL

### Romans 7:22

For in my inner being I **delight** in God's law;

There are some people who would say that **if you are a Christian, that you do not struggle with sin**  
– **I completely disagree**

The fact that you struggle with Sin – is a sign of God's Work

**BUT** - If you have Holy Spirit - Sin **SHOULD** make you uncomfortable

### Romans 7:23

but I see another law at work in me, **waging war** against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

### Romans 7:24

what a wretched man I am! Who will **rescue** me from this body that is subject to death?

BIG WORD that I want to point out in this verse – **RESCUE** – HUGE

**DON'T MISS THIS!**

Paul wasn't looking for a reason to sin, he was looking to get rescued from it  
**THAT** is a paradigm shifting idea!

**\*\*\*Teenagers** – ‘How Far is TOO Far?’

-wrong question – they just want to go as far as they can

-right question is:

what can I do in my dating relationships to show LOVE to the person I am dating while honoring God?

Because, if we are living in Sin, we want to justify it

**That is NOT what Paul was doing here**

He was struggling, he didn't want to, and he wanted to be rescued from it

**Church SHOULD BE a place where it's OK to not be OK**

**‘It's OK to not be OK, not OK that stay that way’**

**God loves you JUST LIKE YOU ARE, but He loves you TOO MUCH to let you stay that way!**

**Romans 7:25**

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through **Jesus Christ** our Lord!

-So the bigger question to answer this morning's question is:

**Do I want to continually struggle with the same sin?**

**Or**

**Do I want to be set free from it?**

**Call it a SIN**

One of the problems (especially in this culture): we won't call it what it is

**A mistake is when:**

You forget to carry the 1 in an addition problem

You forget to use conditioner in the shower

You forget to roll your window up and it rains

You forget to cross your T's and dot your I's

## **A mistake is NOT**

“I had an affair” - **You don't plan a mistake**

Don't buy airplane tickets and reserve a hotel room to facilitate a mistake

Don't have secret passwords to secret email addresses and website to assist in you making 'a mistake'

## **IT'S SIN!**

### **Teenagers**

A mistake is not 'I had sex with my BF/GF'

Just so you know where I stand on that issue:

Until Married -keep your hands to yourself - treat like Mother/Sister

After Married -eat your Wheaties and makeup for lost time - GAME ON!

The word SIN – sounds serious – because it IS serious!

**NON-CHRISTIANS** - you don't even have to use the 'biblical definition'

What is the thing, you know you should NOT do, but still do

**THAT'S SIN**

**Sin murdered Jesus** – that is why he went to the cross – BIG DEAL

We have to call it SIN and see it as serious

Until we do, we will not be serious about getting it out of our lives

SIN isn't something that need to be played with – needs to be called out

## **Confess It To God**

This confused me for a long time – finally realized – confession is not for God's benefit – it's for mine

Confession has nothing to do with **Information** – God already knows

It has everything to do with **Transformation**

**When I begin to see things the way God sees things,**

**I will be more likely to do what God says**

**\*'Bear from Will Ferrell Movie 'Semi-Pro'**

'Rocky' was the best trained grizzly in hollywood

Everyone was SO SUPRISED when they found out that it killed him.

BECAUSE IT'S A BEAR!!!! – 600 lb Apex Predator – it is what it is!  
It is in its nature to be at the top of the food chain

Destroy anything that gets in its way  
You can call it a pet, treat it like a hamster, but it wants to eat you!

We can call Sin – a mistake – but it is what it is

Sin ain't playing – it wants to destroy you!!!

Sin is worse than Cancer

When you have cancer – you need to get it ALL out of your body  
Surgery, radiation, chemo, etc.

Because, if any of it is left in your body, it will grow and DESTROY YOU!

**Cancer can take your life - Sin can take your soul**

Call it Sin

Confess to God

and then:

**Confess It To Others**

**Confess to Others** - This is NOT easy

I'm a Private Person – don't want to share

Nobody else's business – my life, not there's

My life, doesn't effect anyone else – **THAT IS A LIE FROM SATAN**

**James 5:16**

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**Proverbs 28:13**

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

You are only as bad as your secrets; you can't get help until you ask someone to help you – mercy is found in confession

Once it's out there - it NEVER seems as bad as it was as a secret

Healing process is painful – better than the alternative:DESTRUCTION

Confess your sins to Someone Else”

**Who is SOMEONE?** – Be careful – Need to Love Jesus and Love You

Not everyone does

Not asking you to get on stage and proclaim your sins to the world

Some topics are not healthy for group discussion

Everybody doesn't need to know everything

But **somebody** needs to know everything

That is why, we are trying to get you CONNECTED in RELATIONSHIPS

You NEED this - **Summer Supper Club**

Confessing your sins to someone else – for me:

Has been the most freeing thing I have ever done in my life

To admit that you have a problem to someone that loves Jesus and loves you  
that will pray for you, love you, hold you accountable, encourage you

THAT has been the final piece of the puzzle in my life to conquering sin

-Not that I don't struggle, just that I know it can be defeated

I didn't know that before

This is a BIBLICAL MANDATE!

### **Proverbs 28:13**

**Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses  
and renounces them finds mercy.**

I want you to prosper – I want your life to be incredible

**Sometimes - !t Hits the Fan**

We will spend LOTS of time talking about how to navigate things that  
are OUT of our control - but this is something we CAN change about our  
situation.

We can PREVENT throwing our own lives in the fan

There is FREEDOM from Self Destruction.

### **Romans 7:25**

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through **Jesus Christ** our Lord!