

A close-up photograph of a weathered wooden door. The door is made of vertical wooden planks with horizontal metal bands. A metal chain is attached to the door, secured with two padlocks. The text "FREEDOM FROM SIN" is overlaid at the bottom in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

FREEDOM FROM SIN

ROMANS 7:14-17

“For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me”

BY NATURE?

- Ephesians 2:2ff – “Nature” does not mean “born this way”, as the context clearly indicates.
- Blaming the literal flesh is a lazy excuse for sin, and not at all what Romans 7 is talking about. Rather, our sins become second nature by habit. We get used to the way sin feels.
- One way to think about it is the following analogy . . .

There's A Hole In My Sidewalk In Five Easy Chapters



ROMANS 6:16-18

“Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness”



FREEDOM FROM GUILT ONLY?

- In Christ, we are not just free from feeling *guilty* about sin. We are actually free from the sin itself.
- But many unwittingly remove the great life-changing power of the gospel by assuming that sin is, practically, unbeatable. Is that the attitude of Ephesians 4:20ff?
- This is all easy to say, hard to do! How can I actually become free from sin when I seem to fail so often?

I AM NOT STRONG ENOUGH

- It is easy to just give people a spiritual pep talk and send them on their way when they have been struggling with sin.
- But the only way any of us can ever break the sin cycle is to fully embrace the truth of our own inadequacy. Consider 2 Corinthians 12 along with Philippians 4:13.
- David stands out as a great example to model. His “strength” is God, and his life is the case-in-point of how this works practically.