

**SERMON STUDY NOTES**

Undivided Series – Free Fallin’

Text: Romans 8 NIV

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.

25 in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. -Romans 7:23

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

- Romans 6:11, 14

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

- Romans 8:1, 5

Sin can be hard to talk about. For many, sin is mostly a tool for shame and condemnation. Many in our society say that they don't even believe in sin. But the world does believe in similar concepts, like right and wrong, injustice, hate, harm and evil.

One of the problems with believing in sin is that it is relational – it requires a belief in God, and that God defines right and wrong, justice and injustice. Sin is disobedience to God.

The impact of sin and evil on the earth and humanity is the core reason for Jesus' death and resurrection to forgive, save, and restore humanity back to God. When we minimize the power and effect of sin on our lives, we also minimize the power and need for Jesus.

Additionally we minimize our worship, gratitude, and love for the One who saved us. As Jesus said, "whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Luke 7:47

1. Take some time to talk about the groups reaction to the Scripture from Sunday.
  - a. What stood out to you? What was God speaking to your heart and addressing in your life?
  - b. What questions did it bring up?
  - c. Were there things you did not understand?
  - d. What was God calling you to do this week in response to his word?
2. In 7:23 Paul uses slavery and prisoner language to describe sins impact on humanity. How have you seen sin work in this way in yourself and in the world.
3. How does the "hostage to sin" image impact how you think about and pray for your friends and coworkers?
4. What parts of your life and past have become dead to you now that you are alive to Christ?
5. We are called to an in between space, knowing that we continue to sin in various ways, but called to have the mind of God's Spirit and live according to it.
6. What helps you maintain a "mind set on what the Spirit desires?"