



FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 29

WEEKLY WORD

Read Romans 7:15-25. You may want to read these weekly texts in more than one version of the Bible, just to get a wider perspective of meaning. If you go to biblegateway.com, you can look at any verses using any version.

In this text Paul names the tug-a-war / inner-conflict that goes on within him as he is pulled between his sinful nature and the righteousness to which God calls him. It is a text of which all of us should be nodding our heads and saying "*I know just what you mean, Paul!*"

WEEKLY CHEW

Please wrestle with these questions during the week and feel free to offer your thoughts or questions on our LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH SR WEEKLY WALK page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251008952628293/>.

1. Think about how you have experienced that inner-conflict of doing what you shouldn't do and not doing what you should do in your life. This is part of our "*bondage to sin.*" We are all stuck in this tension. How does it make you feel that even someone like Paul is experiencing this tension between desired intent and real actions? Can you think of an example of experiencing this internal tug-a-war from your own recent past? (*Feel free not to share this one on our Facebook comments!*)
2. In the Divine Drama Bible Study, the symbol for sin is an arrow pointing in on itself. The thought behind it is that sin is most often self-serving. As you think about the times you don't do what you ought or do what you shouldn't, how accurate is that symbol in describing sin? Can you think of sins that are not self-serving?
3. In that we are all stuck in this vicious cycle of sinfulness, we can feel pretty hopeless, were it not for the *GRACE* given to us by Jesus. How have you experienced that grace in your life? How are you at receiving it? How are you at giving it?
4. Paul makes a strong point that we cannot defeat the power of sin on our own. Can you think of ways we nevertheless try to erase the effects of sin in our lives without involving God? In what ways is it hard for us to trust God this this task?

5. Martin Luther wrestled with his slavery to sin just as Paul did. Eventually he realized that he needed to surrender complete control of his life to God. What has been your experience in surrendering control of your life to God?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Jesus calls us into being his body on earth. We are to reflect his love and mercy and *GRACE* in our lives. This week, think about the opportunities that you have in offering grace, in being Jesus in your day to day.

PRAYER

Gracious God. You know my struggle. You know what tempts me. You know the times I do not live the sort of life you have created me to live. Help me to surrender to the gift of your grace and unconditional love in my life. Amen.

**I do not
understand**

WHAT I DO.

**FOR WHAT I do
I WANT TO not do,**

**But what
I HATE**

I DO.

ROMANS 7:15