

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of November 20, 2016

Romans 7:15-25

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>15</sup> *I don't know what I'm doing, because I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do the thing that I hate. <sup>16</sup> But if I'm doing the thing that I don't want to do, I'm agreeing that the Law is right. <sup>17</sup> But now I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it's sin that lives in me. <sup>18</sup> I know that good doesn't live in me—that is, in my body. The desire to do good is inside of me, but I can't do it. <sup>19</sup> I don't do the good that I want to do, but I do the evil that I don't want to do. <sup>20</sup> But if I do the very thing that I don't want to do, then I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it is sin that lives in me that is doing it.*

<sup>21</sup> *So I find that, as a rule, when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> I gladly agree with the Law on the inside, <sup>23</sup> but I see a different law at work in my body. It wages a war against the law of my mind and takes me prisoner with the law of sin that is in my body. <sup>24</sup> I'm a miserable human being. Who will deliver me from this dead corpse? <sup>25</sup> Thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then I'm a slave to God's Law in my mind, but I'm a slave to sin's law in my body.*

**Connection Questions:**

1. Discuss the best techniques you know to train a dog.
2. The word obedience means submission to another's authority. Discuss what this means in relationship between a master and his/her dog. What does it mean for our relationship with God?
3. Dogs live to please their master. Share any dog stories you know of that express this desire in dogs. What can we learn about the Christian life from a dog's devotion to its master?
4. Read out loud our text Roman 7:15-25. Discuss what you think Paul means by his confession.
5. What was the difference between Paul's respected life as a Roman citizen and a Pharisee versus his new life with Christ?

6. Why do you think confession has always been an important part of worship in our Christian tradition?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What role does being vulnerable play in living the Christian life? How could this get in the way of faith development for some people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Can we overcome the problem we have with our sinful nature? What do you think John Wesley meant as he described the Christian journey as one going on to perfection?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Discuss the importance of spiritual disciplines and their importance in our spiritual formation.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. In Rev. Adkins' sermon he compares the church to Alcoholics Anonymous. If you know anything about AA, discuss how it offers an example of how the church could best encourage spiritual development.