

***OT Law: Good or Bad?***  
**Romans 7:7-12**

This is the 2nd of three questions (see also 7:1,13) aimed at clarifying any misconceptions about the OT Law's value for us.

**Verse 7**

Question: *Is the Law sin?*

Answer #1: *May it never be!* No way . . . as in 3:6, 6:2.

Answer #2: Just the opposite--the Law isn't sin; it defines sin!  
Why illustrate with the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment?

**Verse 8**

Admission: However, the Law is used by sin for sinful purposes.

In 7:5 the Law is also said to give rise to sinful desires.

How sin takes opportunity thru the commandment to cause sin:

**Verses 9-11**

Confession: The Law was used by sin to kill me.

*I once* = pre or post-Christian? Is this only Paul or others too?

It's a tough call, but it's likely a pre-Christian Paul in solidarity w/all Jews (*when the commandment came* = at Sinai). Rather than resulting in life (v.10, Lv. 18:5, Ezek. 20:11), sin actually used the Law like an ally to cause spiritual death.

Regardless of one's view, trying to be holy through the Law doesn't work, 3:20, 5:20; instead sin can cause the opposite to happen! Paul experienced this, and if we seek to be holy by keeping the Law or our own list of good rules, we will also experience disappointment and death (alienation from God).

How sin takes opportunity thru the commandment to deceive us, resulting in death:

**Verse 12**

Conclusion: The Law is still holy, righteous and good.

God's Law rules are always good, which means . . .