



## Community Group Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

### Title of Sermon: The Wretched Man

Passage: Romans 7:13-25 NIV

#### Intro

1. If people disagree about the meaning of a passage of Scripture, how do you determine who is right? Does it matter? Is there a “right” answer?
2. How do you reason through a passage of Scripture that is hotly debated among scholars and teachers? How do you know to whom you should listen? What kinds of reasons do you find especially compelling in these kinds of debates?

#### Sermon Points

1. Three Views on the Passage
  - a. When you read Romans 7:14-25, what sounds like your experience? What does not?
  - b. Give some reasons why this passage is often understood to be the normal experience of a Christian.
  - c. Can you give some reasons why it is sometimes understood to be the experience of an abnormal Christian (one who is “carnal” or who “lives in their own strength”)?
2. Three Arguments in Favor of the Third View
  - a. Compare Romans 6:6-7 with Romans 7:14. Is this a contradiction? Are Christians slaves to sin or not? In the places where the Bible sounds like it’s contradicting itself, what approach do you take to resolve the apparent contradiction? Why?
  - b. Compare the following:
    - i. Romans 7:4 with Romans 6:1-23
    - ii. Romans 7:5 with Romans 7:7-25
    - iii. Romans 7:6 with Romans 8:1-11.
    - iv. Do you think Romans 7:4-6 serves as a good summary of Romans 6-8? Why or why not?
  - c. If Romans 7:5 is a summary of Romans 7:7-25, what does Romans 7:5 say is the spiritual state of the person described in the rest of Romans 7?



### 3. Three Implications

- a. What are some passages of Scripture that people commonly take out of context? How have you heard those passages taught in the past? Is Romans 7:14-25 one of them?
- b. Why do you think we struggle to read the Bible in its context? What would help us do it better?
- c. Can you give examples of great plans made by people that do not come to fruition because of human sin ruining those plans?
- d. Can Christians ever be free from their struggle with sin in this life? If so, how? And if not, why not?
- e. What are the dangers in telling Christians that they can be totally free from sin in this life or telling them that they are doomed to failure to sin in this life?
- f. If you were to advise a new Christian on how to successfully fight sin and temptation in his or her life, what would you say? What advice can you give based on your own experience and on what you know to be true in the Scriptures?
- g. How does a passage like this influence how we should pray for ourselves and our world?

### **Wrap Up and Prayer**

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

### **Benediction** - Jude 24-25 ESV

*"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."*