



# LIFEGROUPS

**Series:** *Dealing with Desires*

**Scripture:** *Romans 7*

**Date:** February 1-2, 2020

**Message:** *I Wish I Could But I Can't*

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—[ LET'S START ]—

Pastor Dale began his message with a fun illustration of the Incredible Hulk. The Hulk was the alter-ego of Dr. David Banner, who in the television series used to say, "Don't make me angry. You wouldn't like me when I'm angry," before turning into the Hulk. What are some of the dumbest things that you have ever done when you were angry?

—[ LET'S TALK ]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. Read Romans 7:18-24. Can you relate to the Apostle Paul? Why or why not? What is the principle that Paul teaches us here?
3. Pastor Dale mentioned that he believe that the Apostle Paul was being autobiographical in his writing. He was being vulnerable about the struggle that he faced. It's a battle we all face. Let's look at Romans 7:7-13. What do these verse teach us about the law of God? What was Paul's point? What does this passage teach us about how temptation is aroused in people? What does it teach us about coveting? How would you define coveting?
4. We are going to take a closer look at verses 18-24. Only this time, we're going to read it in context with verses 14-25. Reread this passage including all of these verses. What does Paul mean by all of this? What is our hope?
5. Dale concluded his message by sketching out Romans 7:1-6 on the monitor. What was his point?
6. Read Galatians 2:20 and Galatians 5:17. What do these verses teach us that we need to do as followers of Jesus Christ? What makes this so difficult? How has living the crucified life impacted you? Now look at Luke 9:23. How do Paul's teaching match Jesus' teachings? What would a modern day comparison to Jesus' and Paul's teaching be? How can we encourage each other to be people who live this way?

## —[ LET'S ACT ]—

At the end of his sermon Pastor Dale encouraged us to take a fourteen day challenge to pray and visualize Galatians 2:20. Let's do that together as we leave.

## —[ SERMON REVIEW ]—

- We like the good side of our nature but try to hide or pretend there is no dark side.
- The Apostle Paul was being vulnerable and autobiographical in Romans 7:18-24. He's describing a battle we all face.
- Paul talks about the battle we cannot win in Romans 7:7-13.
- We are all born with an innate sense of God's law written on our hearts. We instinctively have a sense of right and wrong!
- Paul's issue is that the law, though good and perfect, has become a tool which sin uses to condemn and kill us!
  - The scholar Woodrow Kroll says that the word "arouse" or in some versions "opportunity" comes from a Greek word which means, "a place from which a military attack is launched."
  - Paul says the law is perfect and good but sin uses it to aggravate the "sinful green monster" of selfishness in each one of us.
  - Satan used the tree to launch his attack, to arouse temptation in them by questioning the goodness and trustworthiness of God.
  - Why are we tempted to take what we're forbidden to have or do what we're required never to do? We don't trust God! We don't really believe He has our good in mind. We think we know better.
- Coveting is the essence of sin, isn't it? It's the green monster or the Hyde in us that wants, demands, craves, insists and believes that some thing, person, experience, relationship, location, career or whatever will ultimately fulfill us. And God have mercy on whoever denies, prevents or gets in the way of what we want!
- Tim Keller defines coveting like this: the belief that, "There's something more than God and his love and salvation that one has to have in order to be happy. If you can't love God enough to be content with what you are and what you have, that's coveting."
- Wanting what God forbids or wanting anything that's even good more than God is wrong and evil.
- Paul says we cannot win the battle on our own.
- The best day in your life is when you finally realize that you cannot, by yourself, tame the green monster or Hyde in you. Your finest day is when you own the fact that no amount of moralism or self-righteousness is going to restore you spiritually to God your Creator.
- Paul showed us in Romans 7:1-6, Galatians 2:20 and Galatians 5:17 what it means for Christ to be the answer.
- Take a fourteen day challenge to pray and visualize Galatians 2:20.

