



It's Worse Than You Thought

Andy Stanley

Scripture: Romans 5:6–19; Romans 7:15–16

Goal: To understand the human struggle and God's solution.

Idea: It's worse than you thought. You were born bad and acted on it.

VISUAL: The word SIN/You in Adam

Introduction

1. It is difficult to solve a problem when you don't understand what's wrong to begin with.
2. When I was young and dumb and something was wrong with a car, I would pop the hood and stare at the engine. But I don't know anything about car engines.
3. Some of US have been trying to solve US for a long time. Some of YOU have been trying to solve YOU for a long time.
 - Others have tried to solve you as well.
 - Some of you have paid good money for somebody to solve you.
 - Some of you have lost friends, spouses, and maybe even jobs because you couldn't get YOU solved.
4. The problem may be that you don't know what the problem may be.
5. Today I'm going to tell you what one New Testament writer says your problem is. And for the next three weeks, we are going to look at his solution for YOU.
6. If you are not a Bible person, you may not agree with this writer's explanation of what's wrong with you, which means his solution may hold no interest at all for you.
7. To assure you that he knows you better than you might think, I want to begin by reading his description of the problem. This was him before he discovered what we are going to discuss over the next three weeks.

Romans 7:15-1:

¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good . . .
¹⁸For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

[Been there, done that, got a closet full of those T-shirts]

8. We can teach our dogs to stop doing bad things. Why can't we teach ourselves?
 - Why don't you just quit losing your temper?
 - Why don't you just quit lying to your husband?
 - Why don't you just quit eating so much?
 - Why don't you just quit being unfaithful?

