

A man with dark hair, wearing a plaid shirt and jeans, sits on a rocky ledge on the left side of the image, looking upwards. The background is a light blue surface with a large, irregular tear. A large, realistic hand reaches down from the top right corner towards the man. The overall mood is one of hope and divine intervention.

Re-connecting

How *not* to  
change  
(*or* the problem  
with rules)

Romans 7

a changed relationship  
with God



Re-connecting

How *not* to  
change  
(*or the problem  
with rules*)

Romans 7

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When it's just not  
working (*and is  
actually making  
things worse*)

# When it's just not working...

“...we have been released from the law so that we serve in the **new way** of the Spirit, and not in the **old way** of the written code.”

Re-connecting

a changed relationship  
with God

# When it's just not working...

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with God

# When it's just not working...

## Paul's message for 'good people'

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a changed relationship  
with God

# 1. What rules do (7-12)

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a changed relationship  
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- Rules help us see wrong things as wrong (7)

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- Rules help us see wrong things as wrong (7)
- Rules often entice us to more wrong! (7b-8)

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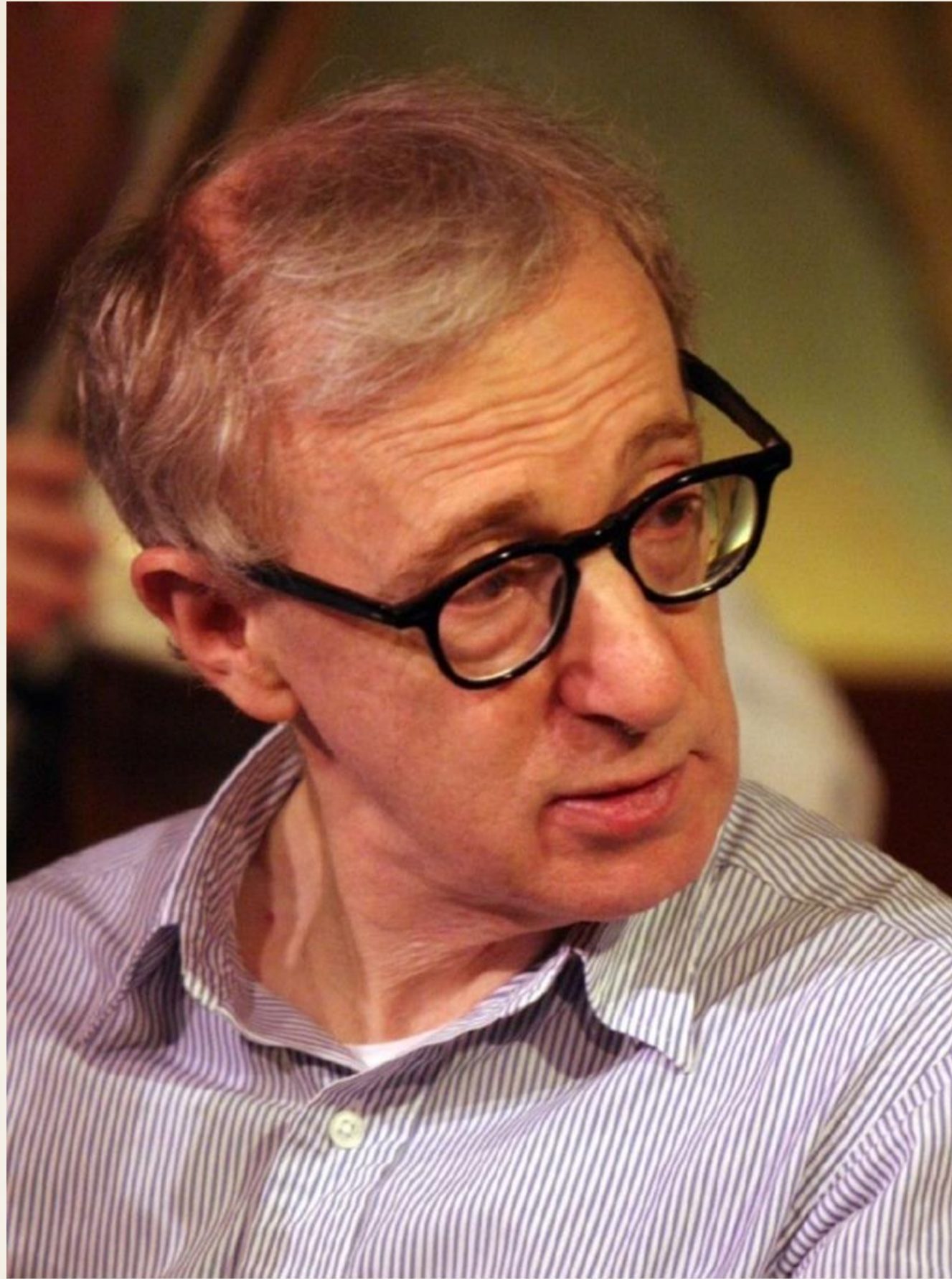


# 1. What rules do (7-12)

- Rules help us see wrong things as wrong (7)
- Rules often entice us to more wrong! (7b-8)

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with God



“Rules don’t help;  
they just put ideas  
in your head”

*(Woody Allen)*

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# 1. What rules do (7-12)

- Rules help us see wrong things as wrong (7)
- Rules often entice us to more wrong! (7b-8)
- So in some ways rules can make things worse (9-11)

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## 2. What rules can't do (13-25)

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## 2. What rules can't do (13-25)

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# Death to the rules! (1-6)

- Dying with Jesus has broken Paul's relationship to the law (4a)

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with God



# Death to the rules! (1-6)

- Dying with Jesus has broken Paul's relationship to the law (4a)
- As a result he now 'belonged' to another (Jesus)

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# Death to the rules! (1-6)

- Dying with Jesus has broken Paul's relationship to the law (4a)
- As a result he now 'belonged' to another (Jesus)
- So now he serves 'in the *new way* of the Spirit'

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with God

# How not to change

- What rules do (7-12)
- What rules can't do (13-25)
- Death to the rules! (1-6)

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with God

# How not to change

- What rules do (7-12)
- What rules can't do (13-25)
- Death to the rules! (1-6)

*So is **your** trust in the rules and your power to keep them?*

*Or is it in Jesus and his Spirit?*

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with God