

ROMANS: PART 37
APRIL 28, 1996

The Weakness of The Moral Law In Sanctification Or The War Within
Romans 7:14-25

Who Is The “Man” of Rom 7:14-25?

1. Is the “man” an unsaved person?
 - ◆ Slave to sin (Vs 14)? Cf. Rom 6:17-18.
 - ◆ Nothing good (Vs 18)? Cf. Rom 6:17-18,22.
 - ◆ Wretched man (Vs 24)? Cf. Rom 7:4.NO. This is not an unsaved person.
 - ◆ Lost people are not *distressed* over their sin. Rom 3:10-11.
 - ◆ Lost people do not *delight* in the Law. Rom 8:5-9.
 - ◆ The verb tense changes from *past* tense (Rom 7:1-13) to *present* tense (Rom 7:14-25).
2. Is he a carnal Christian?
 - ◆ A defeated, unsurrendered, Spiritless person who is justified?
 - ◆ A person who must “get out of Romans 7 and into Romans 8”?NO. This is not a carnal Christian.
 - ◆ We *do* need the Holy Spirit to sanctify us & we *do* need Christ to help us.
 - ◆ But there is no two-stage conversion. There is no divided Savior.
 - ◆ To be “carnal” is to be lost. Rom 8:5-8.
3. Is he a mature Christian? YES! Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Puritans, Packer, Stott, Boice, Etc
 - ◆ The Christian is a *new man* (6:2-6) who still struggles w/ the *remaining flesh* (6:6,12-13).
 - ◆ The Law tells us what is good & righteous, but it does not impart the ability to obey.

The Conflict Between *I* & *the Flesh*: Sins of Commission. Rom 7:14-17.

1. The Problem: I am of flesh -- sold in bondage to sin. Vs 14.
2. The Conflict: I am doing things I hate. Vs 15.
3. Since I hate the sins I commit, I agree w/ the law’s goodness. Vs 16-17
The cause of my sin is not the true “I” but sin that indwells my flesh.

The Conflict Between *I* & *the Flesh*: Sins of Omission. Rom 7:18-20.

1. The Problem: Nothing good dwells in me -- in my flesh. Vs 18.
2. The Conflict: I am not doing the good that I wish, I do the opposite! Vs 19.
3. Since I wish to do the opposite of what I do:
The cause of my sin is not the true “I” but sin that indwells me. Vs 20.

The Analysis of the Christian’s Conflict Between *I* & *the Flesh*: Rom 7:21-25.

1. There are two “me’s” & two principles at work within me. Vs 21-23.
 - ◆ The *new inner me* wishing good (6:4-8,11): The law of my mind -- desiring God’s Law.
 - ◆ The remaining *flesh* that sins (6:6): The law in the members of my body -- waging war.
2. There exists a double cry within me. Vs 24-25a.
 - ◆ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free!
 - ◆ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
3. There are two slaveries within me. Vs 25b.
 - ◆ With my flesh I serve the law of sin.
 - ◆ With my mind I serve the Law of God.

Application For Every Child Of God.

1. You must realistically face the fact that the struggle w/ sin is a *reality* in you.
2. You must realistically face the fact that the struggle w/ sin is *unending* in you.
3. Your progress in the struggle is based upon your *brokenness*.
4. Your progress in the struggle is based upon your *appropriating the means of grace*.
5. Your progress in the struggle is based upon the *mercies of God* (explained in Romans 8).