

# Romans 7:13-20

## What Sin Does in Me

### 1. 7:13-14 – Sin Works in Me

- a. Death comes by sin (5:12). Sin is the evil problem working in us.
- b. *"appear sin"* - The law makes sin look like sin – sin works death in us.
- c. Without the law, it is not evident that sin produces death.
- d. The law made sin evident. The law made it clear where there is sin. It is in us.
- e. *"law is spiritual"* – a) good/godly, b) penetrating the inner man Ps 19:7-9, Heb 4:12
- f. If food kills, and it is shown that the food is good, then the problem is us.

### 2. 7:14 – I Am Carnal

- a. Carnal ~def. Pertaining to flesh; fleshly; opposed to spiritual.
- b. *"I am carnal"* – The big controversy – is Paul describing himself before or after salvation
- c. 1) Some think before b/c, "he speaks as only an unsaved person can" see v. 14,17-18,24
  - i. This position common by the holiness, saved don't sin, crowd. Heb 12:14
- d. 2) Some think after b/c, "he speaks as only a saved person can" see v. 12, 16, 18, 22
  - i. This position common by the Calvinist, saved will to do right, crowd. Mt 7:16-17
- e. 3) An alternative – he is saved by grace not performance, and his flesh is still under sin
  - i. Saved might be carnal → 1 Cor 3:1, 3-4; Need the lesson of Romans 3 and 6.
  - ii. Law-lovers may be lost → Gal 3:3, 4:11, 5:4; Need the lesson of Romans 4 and 7.
  - iii. He writes in present 'I am' describing the Christian struggle resolved in 7:25-8:3
- f. *"sold under sin"* – The redemption of our bodies has not yet occurred – Rom 7:24, 8:23
  - i. Redeemed from penalty of sin (3-5), power of sin (5-6), but sin is still present
  - ii. The presence of sin is why the law cannot justify nor sanctify us.

### 3. 7:15-16 – I Do What I Hate

- a. This is how he knows he is still in some way subject to sin. Gal 5:13,16-17
- b. For the saved by grace, the old man, flesh, and sin still exist. We must learn to discern.
- c. *"I would... I do"* – There is a difference between what he *wants* and what he *does*.
- d. *"I allow not"* – An application of the law. He wants to do good. He hates sin... but...
- e. *"I consent unto the law"* – The law is good; he joins the law in condemning himself.
- f. The law will judge what he does, even if he didn't want it. His flesh is slave to sin.

### 4. 7:17-20 – Sin Dwells in My Flesh

- a. *"no more I that do it"* – Separating who he is from his flesh (where sin dwells) - Col 2:11
  - i. Sin is present (it dwells in us) we cannot deny it, eradicate it, or be ignorant of it
  - ii. If we don't acknowledge sin in our flesh, then excuses are made for it.
- b. *"in me (that is, in my flesh)"* – The divided "you" explains your sanctification in Christ
  - i. our will and power; old and new man; flesh and mind; sight and faith
- c. *"dwelleth no good thing"* – the old man of sin was destroyed (6:6)
- d. *"how to perform"* is absent, like an unbeliever, unregenerate, b/c salvation is by grace
- e. *"evil... that I do"* – Paul confesses to sin, because grace and the Spirit abound over it
- f. Walking after the flesh to keep the law will end in no good thing out of you
- g. We see what to perform, we see a will to perform, we do not see how to perform
- h. Under grace, the flesh does not perform, Christ performed, the Spirit performs.