

The Epistle of Paul to the **ROMANS**

"The Constitution of the Christian Faith"

**** A study in Doctrine****

**** A study in Practice****

Background : This letter , inspired by the Holy Spirit, was written by the Apostle Paul to the "saints" at Rome around 56-58 A.D. , while Paul was in Corinth on his 3rd missionary journey.

Purpose: This letter is written to instruct believers in 3 general area's:

1. The fundamental doctrines of salvation to strengthen against false doctrine.
2. God's faithfulness in His relationship and dealings with Israel.
3. Practical Christian living in relation to society and government.

About Paul : Background : Philippians 3:4-6 (a Pharisee)

Salvation experience - Acts 9:1-22 (Saul=Paul)

Ministry training - Acts 22:1-4 ; 2 Corinthians 12:1-8 ; Galatians 1:15-19

Qualification for apostleship - called by Christ - Acts 9:3-6

Chapter Seven : The Conflict, The Battleground.

I. Believers Are Unmarried From The Law, And Married To Christ.

A. The law of marriage applies to our relationship with Christ. vv1-6

1. We were in submission to the law (positionally), even though we rebelled against it, the power of the law brought out the activity of sin in our members, through our rebellious nature, which would have us to resist any authority over us. *"Thou shalt" --- "I will not!"*
The law is a tough taskmaster. It stimulates our old nature to rebellion..
2. In Christ, we are joined to Him as one body, and submit to Him out of obedience through the power of His love to us. Christ's love to us diffuses our rebellious nature. The power of His love brings out the activity of obedience, which leads to righteousness. 1 John 2:3,-6 ; 3:22 ; 4:7-21; 5:1-5 .
"I love you, I gave my life for you" ---- "What can I do for you, Jesus?"
Jesus Christ is a loving husband. His love stimulates our new nature to obedience.
3. The law of the marriage relationship states that when one of the marriage partners dies, the other is free from the law of marriage, and is free to marry another, without the consequences of divorce. 1 Cor 7:10-15, Matt 5:32;19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18
4. The believer is dead to the law and free in Christ. (by faith) Rom 6:3-6,11; Gal 2:17-21

B. The purpose and affect of the law: vv7-12

1. The law is good, it was ordained and authored by God. Matt 5:17,18
2. The law reveals the sinful nature of man, in that it brings out the natural rebellious nature of man to reject authority, and to be his own authority (his own god).
3. The law is the schoolmaster that brings us to Christ. We understand our need to be saved from our depraved nature of rebellion toward God. Gal 3:19-25

II. The Battle Between The Two Natures:

A. There are now two natures, the old carnal nature, and the new spiritual nature. vv13,14

1. The old nature -

- * Interested only in the desires and lusts of the flesh.
- * In tune with the world and it's systems designed to stimulate the flesh (usually for profit). 1 John 2:15-17
- * Void of spiritual understanding (1 Cor 2:14)
- * Desires to please self. 2 Tim 3:2-4

2. The new nature -

- * Interested in spiritual things, enjoys talking about the things of God. Rom 8:16
- * In tune with the Holy Spirit 1 Cor 2:10-16
- * Enabled with spiritual understanding. 1 Cor 2:9-16
- * Desires to please God. Rom 8:8; 1 Thes 4:1; Jn8:29
- * Evidenced by love toward God and others. 1 John 3:14 ; 4:7-13.

B. The natural reaction between two opposing forces: CONFLICT/WAR vv15-23

1. One force will want to have mastery over the other.
2. Usually the more evil force will be the more aggressive and lawless.
3. The force that gets armed and fed the best will win.
 - a. The new nature is armed and fed with the nutritious Word of God.
 - b. The old nature is armed and fed with the junk food attractions of this world; Those things that appeal to the sinful desires of the flesh.

C. The battleground is the mind, the heart and soul. Rom 12:2; Eph 4:22-24; Phil 2:5; 1 Pet 4:1,2.

D. This conflict will make a soldier weary. 2 Tim 2:3; Ephesians 6:1-13.

III. The Victory Is Promised And Sure. vv24,25

A. What will be our victory?

Colossians 3:1-4 ; 2 Cor 4:16-18 ; Rev 21:1-7 ; Rev 22:1-5.

B. What will be the enemy's defeat?

Rev 20:7-15

In the final analysis, as believers, we realize that we must determine in our mind to serve the law of God. We must also realize that the flesh will desire to serve the law of sin, but Jesus and the power of the resurrection will deliver me from this body of death.