

Romans 7:7-25 - The Law Is Spiritual, But I Am Of Flesh.

REREAD Romans 7:6

vs. 7-13 - Is the Law sin?

- Another hypothetical question is asked: "Is the Law sin?"
 - NOT!
- So, what does the Law do?
 - Reveals sin (vs. 7).
"I would not have come to know sin, except through the Law."
- How does sin take advantage of the Law to harm me (vs. 11)?
"for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me."
 - deceived - *"sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting (lust) of every kind.(Romans 7:8)"*
 - killed - *"the wages of sin is death.(Romans 6:23)"*
 - Back in verse 9 Paul says he was once *"alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died."* I believe what he is pointing out is early in life you don't know about the law and you assume everything is ok, but when you find out about the law your sin is now recognized.
- What can we conclude from this:
 - The Law is holy and righteous and good (vs. 12).
 - Sin is to blame for our sin, not the law.
 - The Law simply makes what is already sinful known as sin.
 - example - is an X-Ray machine the cause of a broken bone or does it give evidence that the bone is broken?
- I believe all of this was pre-salvation for Paul, as is evidenced by the past tense, but starting in verse 14 we will change to the present tense, post conversion Paul.

vs. 14-20 - I agree with the Law.

- *"I am doing the very thing I hate".* - Also in verse 19.
 - because Paul hates his sinful actions, it proves that the law is correct.
 - I find an odd attraction to seeing Paul's failure. It is sick really, like getting pleasure out of watching a car accident (NASCAR), or after failing a test finding some comfort in the fact that others failed as well.

- *"no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me."*
 - this signals a change. Prior to salvation, all the blame of sin was your own, but Paul implies here that it is no longer his fault but simply that sin exists in him. Repeated in verse 20.
 - This is describing what I would call a Christians split personality.
 - the inner man who desires to do good.
 - the flesh which desires sin - it is this flesh that Paul blames all his sin on, and he does not even recognize that as part of who he is now.
 - Galatians 5:16-24 paints this picture quite well, the deeds of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit.

vs. 21-25 - Who will set me free?...Jesus Christ.

- Here is a good Christian principle - evil is present in me.
- Paul describes a war being waged in his body, a constant battle.
- notice that Paul does not ask "how can I set myself free," he asks "WHO will set me free."
 - Paul just spent the last few verses saying he wants to do good, but doesn't.
- *Thanks be to God* - as soon as Paul gets to the point where he realizes he cannot handle this battle on his own (*who will set me free?*) he turns his eye on God!
 - 2Corinthians 5:21 - Jesus became our sin for us so we could become righteous.
 - Praise God that the battle will ultimately be won by the inner man because of the work of Jesus Christ.
 - Of course we may have this down theologically, but practically we have to constantly remember that we are at war, so that when we are attacked by our flesh we can say, "I saw that coming and I know I can have victory."
 - as odd as this sounds I was reading the art of war this week, and one of the key principles was know you can win before you fight. Christians, let me remind you that you have already won! So, when upsets come, don't freak out. Continue to fight, because you will win the war.

Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2Corinthians 3:5-6