

Two Natures at Battle – Romans 7



MEMORY VERSE: But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. Romans 7:6

DAY 1 ROMANS 7:1-6 — Dying to the Law

1. When is the law binding on a person? v.1
2. What is the law regarding a married woman and her husband? vv.2-3
3. Why is it necessary for the believer (wife) to die to the law (husband)? v.4
4. Consider the illustration of marriage. Why do you think it is the believer (wife) who dies rather than the husband (law)?

LEARN THE TRUTH

We know that, because of Christ Jesus, our sins are forgiven and sin no longer has power over us. And yet we still sin! Over and over! Why? Because our old nature fights against our new nature and we forget what we know, that the only power strong enough to win this battle is Christ Jesus Himself.

5. What is the difference between being bound to the law and belonging to Christ? vv.5-6

Ephesians 5:8-10

DAY 2 ROMANS 7:7-12 — The Law and Sin

6. What is true about God's law and commands?
 - v.7
 - v.10
 - v.12

7. What is true about our sin nature with regards to the law? vv.8-11

8. What does Psalm 19:7-11 tell you about God's law and commands?

9. How do you think sin deceives us about God's law?

10. What do these passages tell you about God's law?
Matthew 5:17-20

Jeremiah 31:33

DAY 3 ROMANS 7:13-17 — The Root Cause of Spiritual Death

11. What does not cause death? _____ What does cause death? _____

12. Why is it so important to recognize sin as sin and understand how it works in us? vv.13,14

James 1:13-15

13. In chapter 6 we learned that, when we are in Christ, sin has no dominion over us, and we are dead to sin and alive to God. And yet, what trouble still persists?

14. What do you think verse 16 means?

15. What is the cause of evil behavior?

DAY 4 ROMANS 7:18-20 — Two Opposing Natures

16. Last week we also learned that when we are in Christ we are a new creation, the old has passed away and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). How do you reconcile this truth with verse 18?

17. Why is understanding this dilemma important?
Genesis 1:27

John 14:15-17

18. What two different aspects of sin do you see in verses 18-19?

19. Why is verse 20 true, and not just a way of avoiding personal responsibility?

DAY 5 ROMANS 7:21-25 – Christ is our Victory

20. Describe the battle that goes on in even the most devoted Christian.

21. Do you find this information encouraging or discouraging? Why?

22. Do you identify with verse 24? Do you feel more, or less, “wretched” as you mature in your faith?

23. What is the triumphant truth about our predicament?

24. What helps you experience the victory of Christ in the daily battle against the flesh?

25. How can Psalm 51 help our desires and behavior to match up?

LOVE THE TRUTH

When we were saved by Christ, not only were our sins forgiven, but God gave us a new nature and the Holy Spirit to help us live in victory over sin. It can be very discouraging to realize that we still fall into sin. But God is faithful to forgive us over and over again as He patiently shapes and matures us.

Romans 7

Two Natures at Battle

Romans 7 is an extremely important chapter which can easily be misunderstood. We know that those who are “saved” through Christ’s death on the cross are set apart for God and are being sanctified by Him. God’s law is good, but powerless to make us holy. Even the most well intentioned Christian stands condemned by the law because they simply cannot keep it by their own efforts. Peter rebuked those who tried to force new Gentile believers into going back under the law of Moses, by saying, “why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” Acts 15:10-11

Paul used marriage to explain the limitation of the law. According to the law, a wife cannot be married to one man and marry another while she is still married to her first husband. She also cannot live with a different man while still married to her husband. When her husband dies, she is no longer a wife, but a widow, and so she is free to marry again. In this analogy, the first husband is the law, and death reigns when the law rules. The second husband is Christ, and through Him many are made righteous, which the law cannot do. Believers, both male and female, are the wife- the bride of Christ, and our loyalty must be to Him. We cannot be “married” to both the law and to Christ.

“...we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.” Galatians 2:15-16

Paul insists that the law is good and holy because it tells us what sin is and points us to the good life that God intended. But if our focus is on keeping the law, we can only fail because we lack the power to obey it.

In fact our nature fights against it, making us desire sin more than God. But when our loyalty and focus are on Christ, His redemptive love and the power of His Spirit living in us results in gratitude and a love for His law. We still sin, but we are forgiven and our very nature changes. We long to obey because we see the fruit of that obedience.

Pride and self-centeredness are enemies to living in obedience to God. When we think we are beyond temptation, or judge others for their sin, we set ourselves up for failure. Recognizing our weakness, confessing our sins and trusting in God are key to ongoing victorious living.

WALK IN TRUTH



Every new believer comes to the saving grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. He convicts us of sin and our desperate need of a Saviour. We understand and appreciate Christ’s sacrifice and grace at the time we surrender to Christ because we realize we are dead without Christ. The problem is that we fall back into operating in the flesh, trying to prove we are indeed in the Lord. We try to maintain our salvation by behaving ourselves in the useless power of our flesh. We fail miserably. It is vital that we continue to walk in the power of the Spirit and rely on Christ daily for mercy, forgiveness of sin and strength to move on.

“Who has bewitched you?...Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:1-3) Our flesh will never perfect us, but thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Our hope lies in Him.