

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY CHRISTIAN LIFE? (Romans 7)

- Some verses to consider:

- A. **The BELIEVER'S Relationship to the LAW. (7:1-6)** - Every believer has _____ to the law by becoming united to Jesus Christ {to bear fruit to God} and has been _____ from the Law to now serve the Lord in the newness of the Holy Spirit and not in the oldness of the Law.
- B. **The LAW'S Relationship to the SIN NATURE. (7:7-12)** - The Law, which is holy, just, and good, does not really _____ sin but _____ the sin nature _____ to perform it, though there is nothing wrong with the Law which came from God but there is something inherently wrong with us, even after our justification {being declared righteous} before God by faith alone in Christ alone.
- C. **The Believer's Confusion of the NEW NATURE'S CONFLICT with the SIN NATURE and SPIRITUAL DEFEAT. (7:15-25)**

- Some preliminary observations:

- 1) **This passage addresses Paul's {as a believer in Christ} _____ to do God's will {due to having a new nature} but his repeated _____ and _____ due to having a sin nature and his reliance on _____ to try to live the Christian life under _____.** What is missing from this passage is any mention of the _____ (until Rom. 8).
- 2) **This passage {7:15-25} is loaded with emphatic _____ and _____ tense verbs.** Why is this important to observe?
- 3) **This passage is connected with Paul's conclusion of 7:14, "For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am _____, sold under sin."** What does this mean?

- Some questions you need to correctly come to grips with as a believer in Christ are...

1. **Can the inner conflict & spiritual defeat you experience as a believer be baffling & very confusing at times? _____.** *"For what I am doing {by way of sin or human good}, I do _____". (7:15a)* Does this describe you?
2. **Can the Christian life be lived by your sheer will-power and inner desire? _____** *"For what {the will of God} _____ to do {desire to do due to a new nature}, that I do _____ practice. {7:15b}*
3. **Can you actually end up doing the very opposite of what you desire and even hate? _____** *"but what I _____, that _____". (7:15c)*
4. **While God wants you to succeed in your Christian life, how is God using your failures? If {1st}, then, I do {by way of sin or human good} what _____ {desire} _____ to do, I agree with the law that it is good. (7:16)** What does this indicate to the failing but humble & teachable believer?
5. **What is God seeking to teach you to be your real source of your spiritual defeat? "But now, it is no longer I {as a new creation in Christ, 6:3-7; Gal. 2:20} who do it, but {it is 'the'} _____ {nature} that _____." (7:17)** What and where is your greatest problem? {6:11-13}

Is Paul seeking to indulge his flesh during this defeat or shirk responsibility for his decisions and failures?

6. Does God change your “flesh” at salvation / justification? ____ *“For I know that _____ (that is, in _____) ...” (7:18a)* Why does Paul qualify “in me” with “in my flesh”?
7. What does God want you to learn about yourself that is vital to living the Christian life? *“For I _____ that in me (that is, in my flesh) _____ dwells”: (7:18b)* Are you learning to “know” this reality? What should this drive us away from by way of dependence or deception?
8. What must God teach you about your new nature vs the sin nature that still dwells in you? *“for _____ {desire} is _____ with me {due to a new nature}, but _____ to _____ what is good I do not find.” (7:18c)* How has Paul progressed in his understanding of the spiritual struggle & defeat he is experiencing? But what is he still missing?
9. Why do believers live in spiritual defeat?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____.

- When believers do not understand Romans 7, what wrong conclusions or beliefs do they embrace about the Christian life?
 - 1) That Romans 7 _____ refer to a believer in Christ leading to a lack of _____ of eternal salvation based upon their walk and works instead of faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work (1 John 5:11-13)
 - 2) They conclude that they will _____ their salvation when the Bible clearly teaches the eternal security of every believer – whether spiritual or carnal. (John 10:28-30; Romans 5:9-10; 8:38-39)
 - 3) They think this is the “_____ Christian life” and that they just need to “try harder” and seek to become “more committed” to Christ, failing to distinguish between Romans 7 & 8.
 - 4) They turn from legalism to _____ {licentious} false teaching and seek to remove their spiritual responsibility from the Christian life to eliminate a sense of failure or guilt.
- When believers in Christ understand Romans 7, it clarifies ...
 - 1) That the sin nature has not been _____ after their salvation / justification and remains their #1 spiritual foe in their practical sanctification.
 - 2) That the victorious Christian life _____ be experienced by law living, determination, or self-effort.
 - 3) That when their new nature and sin nature clash, the _____ wins apart from the cross {Romans 6} and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit {Romans 8}.
 - 4) That their frustration and failures in seeking to living the Christian life in not _____ to them and that there is _____ of spiritual victory by God’s grace still available.
 - How does all of this apply to you?