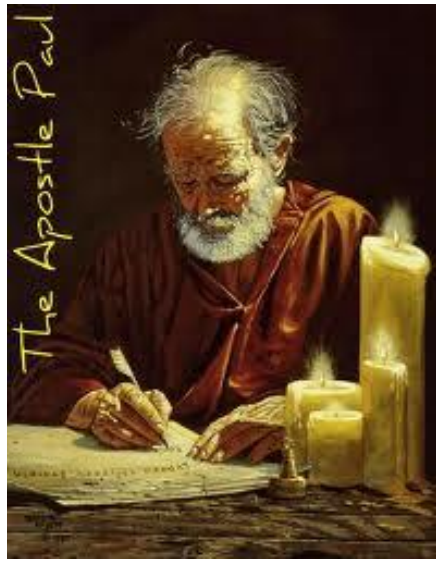




Paul's Letter to the Romans



**God's righteousness in a believer's
life (Romans 6-8)**



Chapter 6
**Identify with Christ
in a death like his, so
you can live in him**





Strategy of Romans



Rom 1: The Gospel of God – Power of God to Salvation by Faith.

History shows Gentiles could not attain God's righteousness

Rom 2: History shows Jews could not attain God's righteousness and were more accountable because they had God's Law

Rom 3 God's atonement: justification by faith

Rom 4 OT proof of justification by faith

Rom 5 God's love for us caused Him to justify us by faith & gift us more than Adam lost

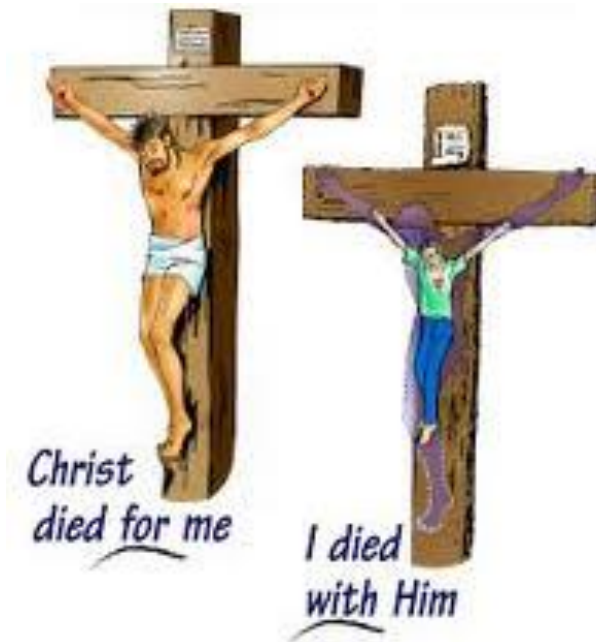
This provides us with a logical way of explaining the Atonement

Romans 6

Since God's love has
done so much for us...



In Romans 6, Paul
deals with our
personal commitment
to be identified with
Christ & choose to
live as slaves of God



Who do you want to be identified
with: Adam or Christ?

Dead to Sin in Christ

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?** *[as some charged Paul as teaching]* 2 Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?** 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death?** 4 Therefore **we were buried with Him through baptism into death**, that just as **Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

So we can walk with the Faith of Jesus

Judaisers misrepresented Paul



- **Claimed Paul taught we might as we continue sinning** so God's grace can increase (already touched on in 2:4; 3:7-8) – Indicates it's hard to understand the gospel of grace!
- **Same thing in Jude 4:** *“turned the grace of God into lewdness”*
- **“continue in sin” indicates a way of life**, while *“shall we sin”* in v. 15 indicates an act
- **3 parts to Paul's answer:**
 - **Baptism** 6:2-14 **Slavery** 6:15-23 **Marriage:** 7:1-6
 - All 3 involve our identification with Christ's death

When we die with Christ, we are freed to choose our master

Baptized into Christ's Death

- **“died to sin” (v.2)** – by identifying with the death of Christ and committing to it ourselves – this is what we really want!
- **Baptism is a public declaration** we join Christ
 - Baptized into his death [to sin (v.10)]
 - Buried with him into his death (v.4)
 - United [grown together from birth] with him (v.5)
 - Our new life is like the resurrected Christ (v.5)
- **If we die to sin like him, we will live to righteousness like the resurrected Christ** (v.5)
- **Glory of the Father brought up His Son in holiness** – this same glory will cause us to walk in newness of life



**We publicly declare we want to
join Christ in his death to Sin**

Dying with Christ to Sin

2 Corinthians 5:14-18

14 For **the love of Christ compels us**, because we judge thus: **that if One died for all, then all died**; 15 and **He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.**

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Motivated by the Love of Christ

United with Christ in his death to Sin

Romans 6:5-11

5 For **if we have been united together in the likeness of His death**, certainly **we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection**, 6 **knowing** this, that **our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with** [*destroyed – Heb 2:14*], **that we should no longer be slaves of sin.** 7 For he who has died [*with Christ*] **has been freed** [*justified*] **from sin.** 8 **Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,** 9 **knowing** that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. **Death no longer has dominion over Him.** 10 For the death that He died, **He died to sin once for all**; but **the life that He lives, He lives to God.** 11 Likewise **you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin**, but **alive to God** [*living & working together*] **in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

We have been raised to a new life

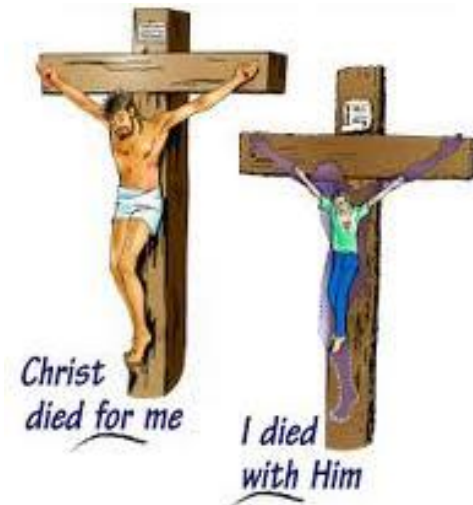


Freed from slavery to Sin (6-7)



- Our old man was crucified with him
 - So the body of sin might be made powerless
 - We are no longer slaves of Sin – because we learn to hate sin like God & we love our Father and want to please him (see John 8:34-36)
 - He who has died has been freed from sin [“freed” is actually “justified”] – we still sin, but God forgives us

Death frees us from serving Sin. Now we choose our Master

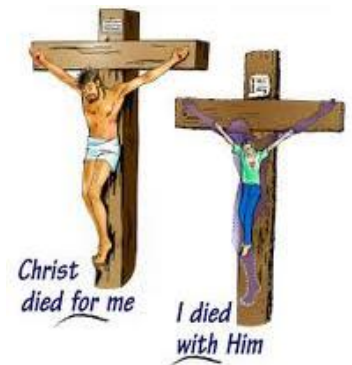




Animal Sacrifice

Identify with
Christ, and commit
to join him in a
death like his.
The animal died **to**
show us how we
should live!

It was never about
"sinners deserve to die"





Circumcision a covenant in the flesh

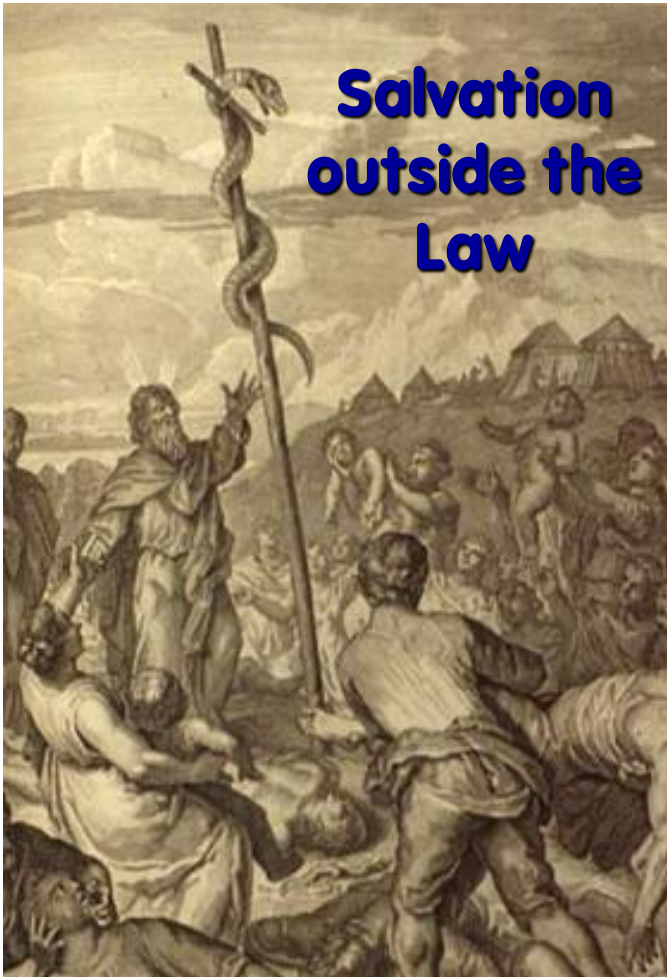


Commitment to
join Christ in
cutting off the
wicked desires
of the flesh

What better way to illustrate
that the problem is in our flesh!



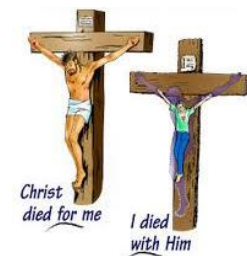
Serpent on the Pole



Must agree that the deceitful desires of human nature should be rendered lifeless, crucified, to be freed from the serpent's venomous bite.

Anyone who looked up was healed. (Jn 3)

You must be born from above
(John 3)





Bread & Wine

- **We take the symbols** of the death of Christ into our bodies
- **We must commit to show forth Christ's death to Sin** in our bodies by the way we live

Show forth his death till he comes

There only ever was one way to be redeemed!



If we died with Christ, we have faith that we will live with him (v.8)



- Jesus has been raised to immortality – **death doesn't have dominion over him anymore** (v.9)
- He died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God (v.10)
- We also must be **dead to sin**, and **alive to God** in Christ (v.11)



Death has no dominion over Christ, so he can always live for God



Dying with Christ to Sin

Colossians 2:20 - 3:7

20 Therefore, **if you died with Christ** from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations — **21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.**

Colossians 3

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: **fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.** 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, **7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.**

This is being born from above

Moral impact on our way of life

Romans 6:12-14

12 Therefore do not **let sin reign** in your mortal body, that **you should obey it in its lusts**. 13 And do not present your members as **instruments of unrighteousness to sin**, but **present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead**, and your members as **instruments of righteousness to God**. 14 For **sin shall not have dominion over you**, for you are not under law **but under grace**.

This must change how we live!

Don't let sin reign in your mortal body (v.12)



- We should not obey it in its lusts
- So present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead & your members (use your body) as instruments of righteousness to God [living sacrifices – Rom 12:1]
- **Sin will not have dominion over you** because you are under grace – not law! *(we aren't motivated by working for God to earn eternal life, but we love Him and His way of life and want it for ourselves!)* – *this is not a legal status...it's a way of life*

That's the power of the
gift of grace!





**Don't let sin reign
in your mortal
body (v.12)**





Who is your Master?



We were born serving Sin, but God has freed us to make a choice!



But serving God by Law will not break the hold of Sin



We choose to do God's will because we "want to" – not because we "have to"



How are Slaves set free?

1) Buy their freedom –
God has done that for
us (1 Cor 6:20; 7:23)



2) Slave dies & is free –
Rom 6:2, 7, 11, 18, 22

Freedom comes at a price!



If the Son makes you free, you are free indeed!

Please others, not ourselves, like Jesus

Romans 15:1-6

1 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 **Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another,** according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Learn from God to be patient & comfort

Should we plan an act of Sin?

Romans 6:15-19

15 What then? **Shall we sin [one act] because we are not under law but under grace?** Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, **whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?** 17 **But God be thanked** that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And **having been set free from sin** [as your master], **you became slaves of righteousness.** 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, **so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.**

Time to live now as slaves of God



Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? (v. 15)

- “sin” is one act of sin – Paul covers both types of challenges thrown at him (contrast v.1)
- We are slaves of the master to whom we present ourselves to obey (v.16)
 - **Sin:** leading to death
 - **Obedience:** leading to righteousness
- **God be thanked:** we once obeyed Sin, but now **obey from the heart** (conscious decision, not natural impulse) [v.17]
- You were set free from Sin [like Jn 8:32].... and **became a slave of Righteousness** (good choice!) [v.18]

Thank God for setting us Free!

Set Free to become a Slave of God

Galatians 5:13-15

13 For you, brethren, **have been called to liberty**; only **do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.** 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

**This becomes the basis of
Paul's appeal in Rom 14**

Don't despise those God has received!

Romans 14:1-6

1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. **3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.** 4 **Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.**

5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, **for he gives God thanks;** and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, **and gives God thanks.**

We have different cultures and we shouldn't force our culture on others

We each give account to our Master

Romans 14:7-13

7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 **But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** 11 For it is written:

"As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

12 **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.** 13 **Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.**

So don't judge one another about trivial things - God will take care of it

We are slaves of God to serve one another

Romans 14:14-23

14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 **Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.** 16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; 17 **for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** 18 **For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.**

19 Therefore **let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.** 20 **Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.** All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. 21 It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. 22 Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; **for whatever is not from faith is sin.**

As God's slaves, pursue peace & edify others



How would you have ended this?

Romans 6:16



Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of **sin** leading to **death**, or of **obedience** leading to

Paul uses “**righteousness**”

Paul wants to make sure none of the Judaisers think their obedience will earn them eternal life



Eternal life is God's gift!

Romans 6:19

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. (NKJV)



I speak this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters, because it is easy to understand:

Paul started out with their personal baptism, then uses slavery, a simple example in Rome, then marriage, an example from their Law in Rom 7

What does serving Sin get us?

Romans 6:20-23

20 For **when you were slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 **What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.** 22 But now having been set free from sin, and **having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.** 23 **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

God graciously gives us eternal life
if we chose to serve Him

Slaves of Sin are free from righteousness (v. 20-21)



What **fruit** did you get from all those things which you are now ashamed of?

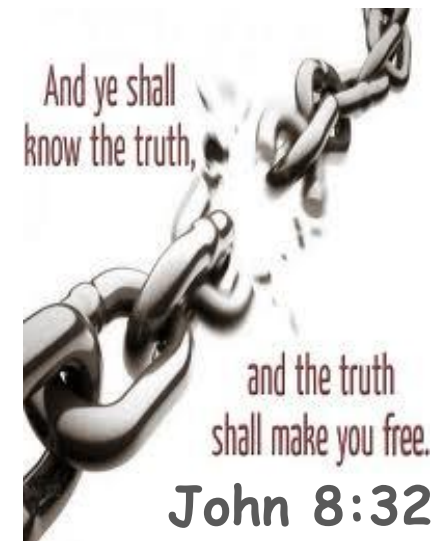
Death!



A Dead End!



Set free from Sin to become slaves of God



Bear fruit unto holiness (v.19, 22)



And in
the
end,
eternal
life

The Fruit of God's Spirit



God chastens all His Children

Hebrews 12:3-12

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten **the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:**

**"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;**

**6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives."**

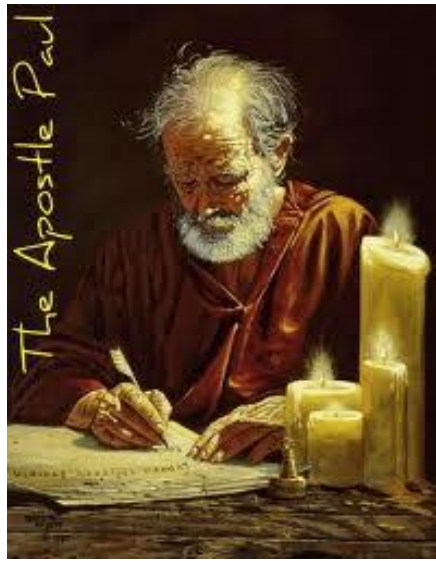
7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but **He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.** 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, **afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

Learn to love God's training program

The Gift
of God is
eternal
Life, in
Christ
Jesus our
Lord
(6:23)



God's Gift
to us is
totally out
of
proportion
in relation
to what
Adam lost



Paul's Letter to the Romans



**The Righteousness of God
has been Revealed!**



**Chapter 7:
The Failure of the Law
was due to the
weakness of the flesh**

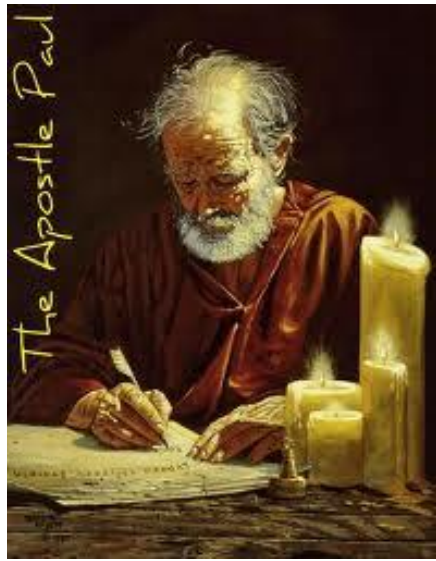


In Romans 7...

Paul's Bible proof
that we can be freed
from a covenant



Paul shows that even the
Law freed women from
marriage at times, then
shows there was nothing
wrong with the Law



Paul's Letter to the Romans



**The Righteousness of God
has been Revealed!**



**Chapter 7:
The Failure of the Law
was due to the
weakness of the flesh**



Dominion of Law only applies while one lives

Romans 7:1-6

1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that **the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?** 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband **as long as he lives.** But **if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.** 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; **but if her husband dies, she is free from that law,** so that she is no adulteress, **though she has married another man.** 4 Therefore, my brethren, **you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another — to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.** 5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. 6 **But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit** and not in the oldness of the letter.

Death freed them from the covenant of Law

Death frees us from the power of the Law

Romans 7:1-2 (RSV, NIV)

Or do you not know, brethren - *for I am speaking to those who know the law* - that the law is binding on a person **only during his life?**



Paul designs his line of reasoning to people who know the law well - here's Bible proof that death can free you from the Law

He shows that even the Law described situations where you could be freed from one master and choose to join to another



Death frees us from the power of the Law



- Paul appeals to those who know the law (v.1)
- Wife is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives (v.2) [Gen 2, Lev 20:10, Deut 24]
- If husband dies, she is released from **law of her husband = Law concerning her husband**
 - Like Law of the Nazarite, Law of the leper, etc.
- While husband lives, if she marries another, she will be called an adulteress (v. 3)
- If husband dies, she is freed from *that law (not husband)*, no adulteress, even if she re-marries (v.3)

Law of her husband was very demanding of women!

In Christ, we died to the old man & are free from the law

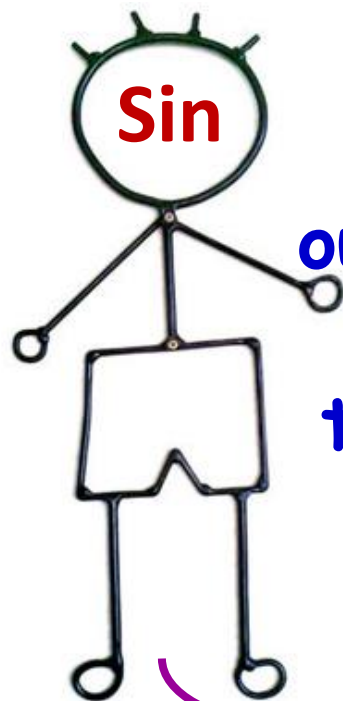


- **Christ was bound** to his old man (sin) by the law too
- **He died to Sin** (put old man to death) and is freed
- **If we are in Christ**, we died to Sin in Him **and are free of the law** that bound us to Sin
- **We are free to marry another** – even Christ who was raised from the dead
 - Death no longer has dominion over him (Rom 6:9)
 - We can now bear fruit to God (v.4)
 - The Law aroused the passions of sins in our members to bear fruit to death (v.5)
 - ‘in the flesh’ = “living in the flesh” (RSV) [v.5] (more on this in Romans 8)
 - We are now delivered from the Law so we can serve in newness of Spirit (v.6)

Paul's analogy in Rom 7:1-4

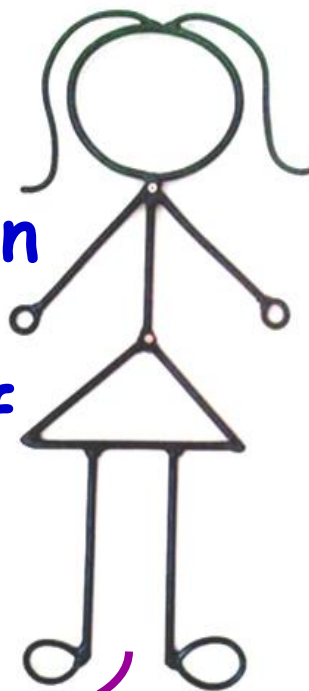
While living in the flesh

Old man



Bound to
our old man
(Sin) by
the law of
Moses

Us



For when we were controlled by the sinful nature *[living in the flesh]*, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. (NIV)

Death!



The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. (1 Cor 15:56-57)

Paul's analogy in Rom 7:1-4

If we died with Christ

Old man (Sin)

Us



Christ has freed us from the Law that bound us to our old man by putting the old man to death

Rom 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ

We are free if we die with Christ and live in him

Paul's analogy in Rom 7:1-4

Serving God in newness of spirit

my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another — to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

Us



Free
to
choose
our
husband



Bear fruit to God

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness & self-control

Testimony of the Law: Death breaks a covenant & frees you to make another



- Christ was born under the law [Gal 4:4] and the dominion of Sin & Death, but he died to Sin & is free from the Law!
- If we die with him, we are free too – free to choose to marry Christ!

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Be Careful! Rom 7 is not Paul's
teaching on Divorce & Remarriage



Divorce &
Remarriage

1 Corinthians 7

Paul viewed the Law very different from the Jews



- **2:14** Gentiles who don't have the law can do what the law required & be justified by faith
- **2:17-24** You who boast in the Law, do you teach yourself?
- **2:25** if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, his uncircumcision will count as circumcision.
- **3:20** by deeds of the law no flesh will be justified, for by the law is the knowledge of sin
- **3:21** but now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed
- **3:28** we conclude that a man is justified by faith, apart from deeds of the law
- **4:15** the law brings about (God's) wrath
- **5:20** the law entered that the offense might abound
- **7:5** sinful passions were aroused by the Law, brought fruit to death

Jews now wondered if the Law is Sin

The Law taught me about Sin

Romans 7:7-12

7 What shall we say then? **Is the law sin?** Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 8 **But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire.** For apart from the law sin was dead. 9 I was alive once without the law *[as young boy]*, but **when the commandment came *[aware now]*, sin revived and I died.** 10 **And the commandment, which was to bring life *[in this life (Lev 19)]*, I found to bring death.** 11 **For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.** 12 Therefore **the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.**

Sin used God's good law to deceive & kill us

Paul as a
young boy not
aware of Sin



Paul as a
mature boy
when the light
of the Law
revealed Sin

Is the Law Sin? (v.7)



- **Certainly not!** On the contrary
- **I would not have known sin** except through the law (the law exposed & revealed sin)
 - **Great example: covetousness** (easy to hide)
 - We wouldn't know it was sin without God's law
 - It's not like murder, adultery, stealing, etc.
- **Sin used the commandment** to produce in Paul all manner of evil desire
- **Apart from the law** sin was dead

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law (1Cor 15:56)

The Law isn't Sin, but it did expose Sin

Commandment revived sin & I died



- **Paul was alive once without the law** – when he was a child (v.9)
 - When the commandment came = when Paul became aware of the commandment
- **The commandments in the law** caused sin to revive & Paul died
- **Commandment which was to bring life (v.10)**
 - **Lev 18:5** “if a man does, he shall live by them”
 - **Gal 3:12** linked with “the law is not of faith”
 - **Dt 5:33** shows it refers to life now – not eternal life
 - No one could keep it anyways! It brought death!

The Law increase Sin

Note Paul's personification of "Sin" to show its deceitful power



- **V.8** Sin found a way to use that command and cause me to want all kinds of things I should not want (NCV)
- **V.11** Sin found a way to fool me by using the commandment to make me die
- **V.13** Sin used something that is good to bring death to me. This happened so that I could see what Sin is really like; the command was used to show that Sin is very evil.
- **V.17** I am not really the one who is doing these hated things; it is Sin living in me that does them.

Sin is driven by "deceitful lusts" (Eph 4:22)

Sin deceived me! (v.11)

- Sin used the commandment
- Sin deceived Paul & Sin killed Paul



2 Cor 11:3-4 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Therefore, the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good (Rom 7:12)

The problem isn't the Law!

The Law was holy, just and good

Romans 7:13-20

13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! **But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.** 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, **but I am carnal, sold under sin.** 15 For what **I am doing**, I do not understand. **For what I will to do**, that I do not practice; **but what I hate, that I do.** 16 If, then, I do **what I will not to do**, **I agree with the law that it is good.** 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, **but sin that dwells in me.** 18 For **I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;** for **to will** is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that **I will to do, I do not do;** but **the evil I will not to do, that I practice.** 20 Now if I do what **I will not to do**, it is no longer I who do it, **but sin that dwells in me.**

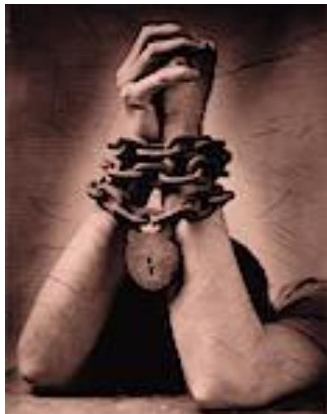
Our nature is so biased towards Sin



How do we know that Romans 7:13-25 is about Paul in his reconciled state?



- Some people think Paul is only describing his war with sin before his conversion
- **V.7** “I would (*past*) not have known sin except through the law” is **Paul under the law**
- **V.14** “I am (*present*) carnal” is **Paul now** – when he wrote the letter after being reconciled to God



Although he was set free in his mind to serve God, he was still a slave to sin in his body



The Law didn't fail... People did! (v.13)



- Did the good law cause death to Paul? **NO**
- **Sin** produced death in Paul
- **Sin** became exceedingly sinful through the commandment

Oh, how I love Your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
You, through Your commandments, make
me wiser than my enemies; Ps 119:97-98

The Purpose of the Law



- **A national code** to control a nation of slaves who were freed from Egypt
- **Teach people about Yahweh** their God – His character & His ways – to learn to fear Him & live like Him
- **Sanctify people** to be members of God's family
- Help us develop **love for God** and our neighbor
- **Taught everyone how sinful they were**, so they would turn to God for **mercy and salvation by grace**
- **Declare the right punishment sins deserve**, but put limits on how far punishments could go
- **God's test** to see if people would obey Him
- **Provide a fuzzy shadow of salvation by grace through faith** in God's own son
- **Testify of it's own limits**, and that something better was coming

The Jews misused it to justify themselves

The Law never promised Eternal Life to anyone



- **3:20** by deeds of the law no flesh will be justified, for by the law is the knowledge of sin
- **3:28** we conclude that a man is justified by faith, apart from deeds of the law
- **7:5** sinful passions were aroused by the Law, brought fruit to death
- **Gal 2:11** no one is justified by the Law in the sight of God
- **Heb 13:20** Even Jesus was brought again from the dead by the blood of the everlasting covenant (Abrahamic) not the Mosaic Law

**Jesus kept the Law perfectly,
but in the end it cursed him**

Law is spiritual, but I am carnal (v.14)



- **Sold unto Sin** – like a slave in the marketplace – serving a master unwillingly
- **Paul doesn't understand what he's doing (15)**
 - What he wants to do, he doesn't
 - What he hates, that's what he does
 - Paul's old man (his body) sometimes follows the desires of his master, Sin – rather than the master of his mind
- **This proves that Paul agrees** the law is good (16)
- **It's not Paul willingly sinning**, but Sin that lives in him – nothing good lives in his flesh (17-18)
- **He wants to do good**, but doesn't perform (18)

The problem is in Paul's body, not God's Law

Rom 7:14-20 (NLT)

14 So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. **The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.** 15 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. 16 But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, **this shows that I agree that the law is good.** 17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

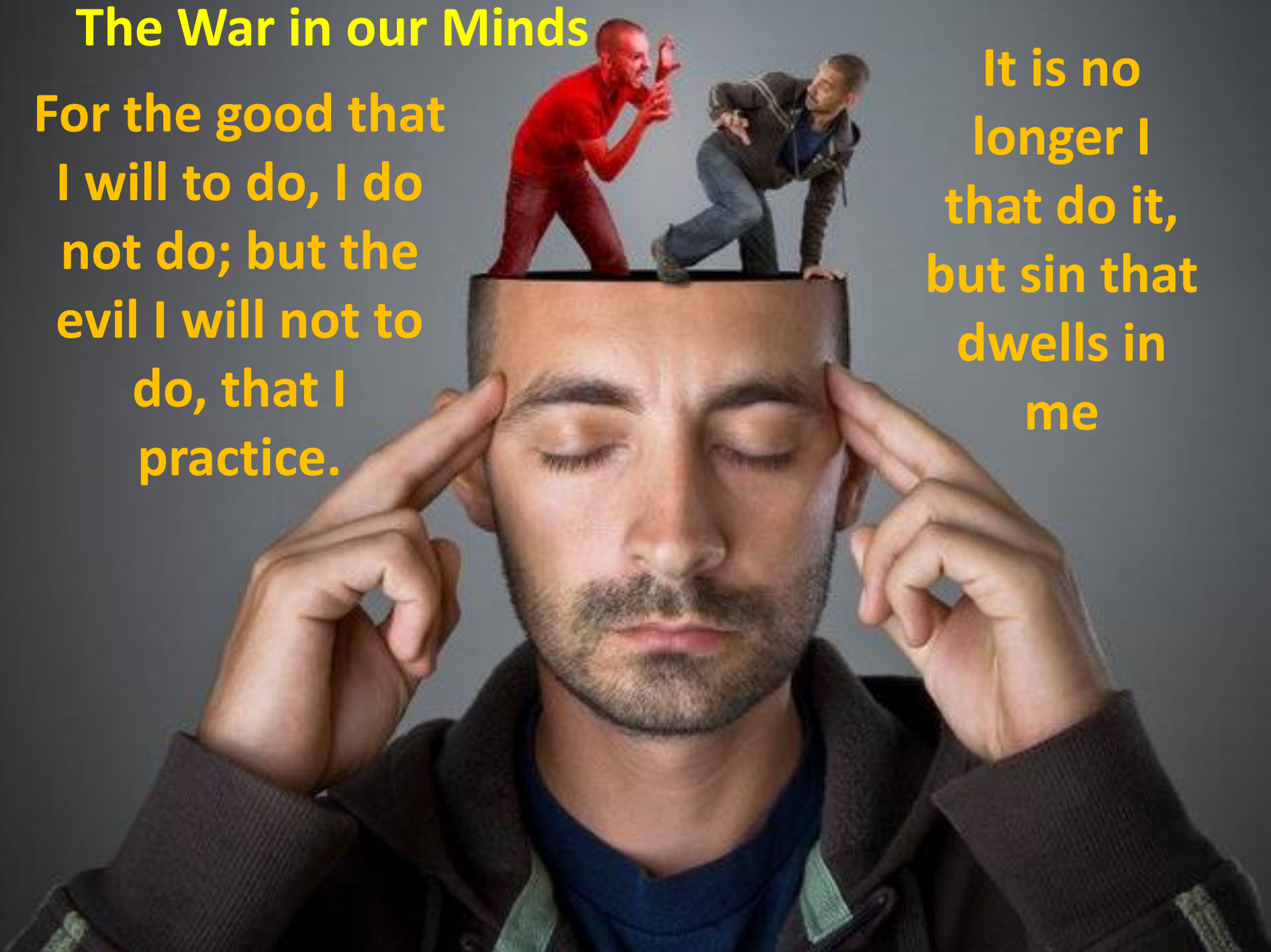
18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don't. **I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.** 20 But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

This doesn't overlook Sin!
We hate it, & God forgives it

The War in our Minds

For the good that
I will to do, I do
not do; but the
evil I will not to
do, that I
practice.

It is no
longer I
that do it,
but sin that
dwells in
me



**We have been freed from Sin
(*in our minds*), but we still
commit sins (*in our body*)**



1 John 1:8-10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

The battle continues to the end



Sin that dwells in me (v.20)



- **It's a battle of wills:** (v.19)
 - Paul wills to do good, but doesn't do it
 - The evil Paul wills not to do, he does
- **If he does what he wills not to do,** then it's no longer Paul, but Sin that dwells in him
- **Note: this only applies to those who will to do good,** and will not to do evil
- **This is not an excuse to continue in sin** that grace may abound

God doesn't hold us responsible for our weak fleshly nature if we truly want to do His will

The Law of sin in our members

Romans 7:21-25

21 I find then **a law, that evil is present with me,**
the one who wills to do good. 22 For **I delight in**
the law of God according to the inward man [*in*
my inward being (NIV)]. 23 But **I see another law**
in my members, warring against the law of my
mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of
sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man
that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of
death? 25 **I thank God — through Jesus Christ**
our Lord! So then, **with the mind I myself** [*Paul's*
spiritual mind] **serve the law of God, but with the**
flesh the law of sin. [*this is the war of Rom 8*]

God will deliver us if we will to do good

The Law at work in Paul's body



- In Paul's members
- Wars against the law of his mind
- Makes Paul a prisoner of the law of sin at work in his members



In Paul's inner being,
he delights in God's law

But his body is serving the
law of Sin & so will ours

Taking our evil thoughts into captivity

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

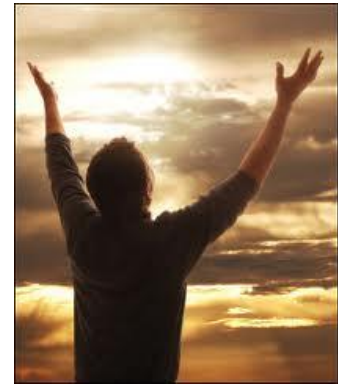
3 For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh.** 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,** 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

God's influence on our minds can do it!

Paul feels a wretched man (v.24)



- **Who will deliver him from this body of death?**
 - Paul couldn't wait to put off this body of humiliation (Philip 3:21)
- **Thanks be to God,** through Jesus Christ our Lord – God our savior!
- **So the Apostle Paul in his reconciled state:**
 - Serves law of God in his mind
 - Serves law of sin in his body



That's how it will be till Christ changes these bodies to be like his glorious body

Lessons from This Class

- We must respond to God's love & mercy by joining Christ in his death to Sin
- Jesus has freed us from Slavery to Sin, now we can choose to be slaves of God & live for Him.
- Don't judge others over cultural differences - Don't despise those God has received - don't force your way on others.
- God's law is holy, just and good. We are the problem because we are so biased to Sin.
- The Law was never designed to give eternal life, it was supposed to make sin appear exceedingly sinful
- We must continue the war against Sin by letting God develop the mind of Christ in us

Next Class.....

**Romans 8: Walking in
the Spirit as a member
of God's family**

