

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 42 PART 1: “THE STRUGGLE: *Identifying the Opponents*”

ROMANS 7:1-3 *Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ² For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.*

³ *Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man, she is not an adulteress.*

The Marriage Analogy:

The Apostle reminds his Jewish brethren of the great principle, that **the power of law is terminated by death**, and he uses the illustration of *a wife who has been freed by the death of her husband to marry another*. **“As long as he lives..”** is the key to the Apostle’s use of the illustration. The main thought is that *death dissolves legal obligation, and that on the death of her husband a wife is legally free to contract another marriage.*

- The **“wife”** is that **in-most self or personality** which is the same under all conditions of existence: **“I myself.”**
- The **first husband** is **“our old man”** (ROM 6:6), **our unregenerate self**; and as long as “he” was alive we were **under his law** (*power / control / dominion / mastery*).
- The death of the **first husband** is the crucifixion of the **“old man”** through our identity with Christ by our act of faith (ROM 6:6).
- The **“wife”**, set free through her first husband’s death and thereby become **dead to the law of that husband**, is **the soul set free** by the crucifixion of the old man **and thereby made dead to its law.**

ROMANS 7:4-6 *Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the [power / control / dominion / mastery of] THE LAW through [union with His death in] the body of CHRIST, so that you may belong to another, [that is] to HIM who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.*

⁵ *For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by THE LAW, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.*

⁶ *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.*

“THE CONTEST”

ROMANS 7 is that classic chapter where Paul declares his frustration as he attempts to **“live-out”** righteous service to God [**SANCTIFICATION**], while being harassed by the temptations from the **“old-self.”**

ROM 7:15-20 *For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*

¹⁹ *For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.* ²⁰ *Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

Finally, in desperation, Paul will cry-out for **DELIVERANCE**, *“Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”* [ROM 7:24]. His answer will be found in **CHAPTER 8**.

ROMANS LESSON 42 PART 2: “THE STRUGGLE: *Identifying the Opponents*”

THE OPPONENTS:

Before we can fully explore the truths related in **CHAPTERS 7 & 8**, we need to identify the words referring to Opponents in this struggle...

They are: The body; the soul; the spirit (*human*); The Flesh; the Old Self (*Man*); this body of death; my members; I myself (*I, me, you*); the New Creation (*Man*); carnal; spiritual; babes; mature; carnally-minded; spiritually-minded. (*Not all of these are found in Romans 7 & 8*)

Some of these are synonymous. Some are exclusive. Some are frequently used... others are rarely used. Some have multiple applications that can be very different in meaning according to the context of their use.

THE 3-PART BEING:

- **BODY** – the physical body in which WE exist...
 - Subject to the natural elements and influenced by them...
 - Under the “control” of soul / spirit within...
 - The Body has NO control of itself but must be “directed...”
- **SOUL** – The seat of a person’s reasoning and will...
 - **MIND** – *Intellect* – educated by experience, and learning...
 - The source of reasoning, creativity, imagination, and fear...
 - Fed by “5 Senses”
 - Our Source of communication
 - **EMOTIONS** – *Passions*
 - Can be influenced BY the mind...
 - Can hold influence OVER the mind...
 - **VOLITION** – *the Will* –
 - The “I will... I will not” of our being...
 - That which influences / allows / directs / controls...
 - “Usually” the path by which the Mind and Emotions direct the body...
- **SPIRIT** – (NOT the HOLY SPIRIT)
 - The “essence” of what is Human...
 - That which was “breathed into man” by God...
 - Sets “man” apart from ALL other Creation
 - The “center” of the person which is “made” to be in connection / communion with God...
 - That which was “separated / dead” as consequence of Sin...
 - That part that is “made alive / recreated / Born anew” by faith at the moment of Salvation...

THE 2-PART BEING:

- The “Outer Man” – the condition where the **unrenewed Soul** is in control of the Body and its Members:
 - Actions... Thoughts... Words... Desires...
 - The “*recreated spirit*” is **dominated** by Soul and Body...
- The “Inner Man” – the condition where the “*recreated spirit*” is in control of the Soul and the Body...
 - The HOLY SPIRIT in union with the human spirit are leading in actions, desires, etc.
 - Relates to being “SPIRIT-Led” -

THE FLESH –

- The Natural being as relating to this creation...
- Our former life dominated by the Old Self using our soul and body to live without regard to God’s purpose and Law...
- That part of the New Believer which is NOT YET been submitted to God’s intent and purpose as taught / revealed by the Holy Spirit within and His Word without.

I MYSELF (I... ME... YOU)

- The “**one in charge**” – the one giving directions... making choices...
- EITHER under influence of our Human Spirit as by the HOLY SPIRIT
- OR under influence of the “*Flesh*” as yielding power to the Old Self
- There is NO MIDDLE WAY:
- The Choice is FULLY MY DECISION...

THE BODY –

- Body – our physical flesh
- Members – the elements of our body that are in contact with the natural world around us:
 - The 5 Senses –
 - Our hands, feet, mouth, etc – including sexual and emotional passions...

THE OLD SELF (MAN) –

- The Natural State of humanity as it was descended from Adam...
- That state which was “*separated*” from God: “*dead in trespasses...*” -
- Because of separation from God, The Old Self was powerless to “control” the passions, motives, thoughts, and actions of the person
- Therefore, it was “hostile to God” and under condemnation of future eternal death because of Sin...
- Under Judgment of “GOD’S DIVINE LAW”

THE NEW CREATION (MAN) –

- When we “*Believe...*” our “human spirit” - *the Old Self that was separated from God “dies with Christ”* and we are “*made alive in Him*”
- The “*Old*” is gone... Sins / Trespasses - ALL our former life is removed from God’s consideration.
 - We are “*Recreated in His image: Righteous and Truly Holy...*”
 - We ARE A New Creation... ORIGINAL ... NOT remade...
 - We are immediately united to God by the in-dwelling Presence of the HOLY SPIRIT...
 - We become a “*member of His Body*” possessing His Righteousness
 - We are elevated to the status of “*Sons*” – *Joint Heirs with Jesus Christ*

NATURAL -

- One who is Unregenerate – An Unbeliever...
- Cannot understand the “*spiritual truths*” revealed to the Believer...
- Not able to appreciate the goodness, mercy, and love of God...

CARNAL –

- Carnal – A Believer who has “*yielded himself to the influence of the Old-Self...*”
 - One who has “**Surrendered Power**” to the passions of the flesh...
 - Living in similar manner as before they were saved...
 - Thoughts and actions that *do not reflect the righteousness of God...*
- Carnally- minded – Believers who do NOT take authority over temptations of the world, their flesh, and the devil...
- Babes – Believers who have NOT grown in understanding of their new position as IN Christ...
 - They have not renewed their minds to the Word o God...
 - Having been presented with the truth they have not applied it to their thinking and emotions...
 - They cannot “*rule in life*” as they were created to do ...
 - They refuse to submit to the training of the Word...

SPIRITUAL –

- Spiritually Minded –
 - Having Thinking, Passions, Desires that are FROM the HOLY SPIRIT that dwells within the “**recreated**” Human Spirit...
 - Makes Decisions that are directly influenced by the HOLY SPIRIT within the Believer...
 - They are Following the “inner voice” of the HOLY SPIRIT as reflected in God’s Word
- The Renewed Mind –
 - Natural thinking, passions, and decisions directly submitted to the Word of God
 - Letting the “life of God within” become the influencing factor in our life...

THIS STRUGGLE IS REAL, AND REFERENCED OFTEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS:

- GAL 5:16-17 *But I say, [YOU] walk by THE SPIRIT, and YOU will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* ¹⁷ *For the desires of the flesh are against THE SPIRIT, and the desires of THE SPIRIT are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep YOU from doing the things YOU want to do.* ¹⁸ *But if YOU are led by THE SPIRIT, you are not under the law.*
- 1 COR 9:24-27 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.* ²⁵ *Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we for an imperishable one.* ²⁶ *So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.* ²⁷ *But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*
- COL 3:1-10
- EPH 4:17-5:21
- TITUS 3:1-9
- JAMES 3:13-18
- 1 PETER 2:9-12
- 2 PETER 1:3-11

ROMAN 7:1-25 “Law AND THE LAW”

Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know THE LAW—that THE LAW is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ² For a married woman is bound by Law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the Law of marriage. ³ Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that Law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

⁴ Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to THE LAW through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by THE LAW, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ 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.

⁷ What then shall we say? That THE LAW is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for THE LAW, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if THE LAW had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from THE LAW, sin lies dead. ⁹ I was once alive apart from THE LAW, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰ The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹² So THE LAW is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. ¹⁴ For we know that THE LAW is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with THE LAW, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be A Law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in THE LAW of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another Law waging war against the Law of my mind and making me captive to the Law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve THE LAW of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the Law of sin.