

# The Problem in All of Us

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Romans 7:14-17

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**Romans 7:14–17**, *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.*

**Romans 7:18–20**, *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.*

Paul is continuing his theme of “the Law.”

- What the Law is: “*So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*” Reveals to us God’s holiness, righteousness, and goodness. The law is more than a rule to obey; it represents and is revelatory of a person to please!

## I. Who is the “I”

### A. The Possibilities<sup>1</sup>

1. Describes an unregenerate person (unsaved).
2. Describes an immature Christian who has not grown in grace.
3. Describes a regenerated person living an unhealthy lifestyle.
4. Describes a mature believer who still struggles with sin (In this case, Paul would be describing himself in a deeply personal revelation recorded in Scripture).

### B. The Evidence

1. The change in verb tenses.
  - a) Romans 7:7-13, the verbs are in the past tense.
  - b) Romans 7:14-25, the verbs are in the present tense
2. Only a believer has a deep love of Scripture and a deep hatred of sin
  - a) Paul hates (present tense) his sin. **Romans 7:15**, *For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*
  - b) Paul loves the law. **Romans 7:16**, *Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.*
  - c) **Romans 7:19**, *For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*
  - d) **Romans 7:21**, *So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.*
  - e) **Romans 7:22**, *For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,*
3. Paul gives thanks for his deliverance.
  - a) **Romans 7:25**, *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.*
4. A mature believer grows in increasing awareness of his sin
  - a) As you draw closer to the light, the light reveals more imperfections.
  - b) You grow increasingly sensitive (that is growth!)

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<sup>1</sup> The Reformation Study Bible: English Standard Version. Sanford, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2015 (1991).

- (1) **1 Corinthians 15:9**, *For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.* (~55 AD)
  - (2) **Ephesians 3:8**, *To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,* (~61 AD - He writes Ephesians.)
  - (3) **1 Timothy 1:15**, *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.* (~63-66 AD =writes 1 Timothy)
5. There is a fierce war that rages in believers between our flesh and the Spirit
- a) **Galatians 5:16–17**, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires* {desire – inordinate; covet; self-indulgent; evil craving} *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* {desires of the flesh} *you want to do.*
  - b) **Ephesians 4:22**, *to put off your old self* {taking off dirty clothes}, *which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt* {dirty clothes} *through deceitful* {lying; deceptive; misleading} *desires,*
  - c) **Ephesians 5:3**, *But sexual immorality* {porneia} *and all impurity* {moral wrong} *or covetousness* {uncontrolled wants} *must not even be named among you,* {meaning it is possible} *as is proper among saints.*
  - d) **Colossians 3:5**, *Put to death* {mortify; crucify, to stop a state or activity with lethal determination; Romans 8:13} *therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality* {porneia}, *impurity* {dirty filth}, *passion* {strong feeling; emotion}, *evil desire* {evil craving; displacing affection for God}, *and covetousness* {greed}, *which is idolatry.*
  - e) This war is inside every believer; otherwise, you are not a believer.
6. True believers still sin and commit gross sins:
- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) Abraham lied about his wife   | b) Moses murdered               |
| c) Samson was a ladies' man      | d) David was an adultery/murder |
| e) Solomon was a serial adultery | f) Jonah abject racist          |
| g) Peter denies the Lord         | h) Ananias & Sapphira lied      |
| i) Corinthians pushed the limit  | j)                              |

## II. The Problem Stated (Romans 7:14)

- A. I am of the flesh (the problem is not the Law) the problem is Paul, not the law.
- B. IT is me, myself, and I.
- C. But I am **of** flesh (it does not say he is living **in** the flesh) (Romans 7.5; 8:5, 8)
- D. "Sold under sin" - Under (hypo) like a hypodermic needle.

## III. Actions

- A. Hate the old self – put it to death daily. Take up your cross daily.
- B. Luke 14:26, *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."*
- C. Crucify the old self. Col 3.5 (take the initiative)
- D. Focus on Christ (gazing at Christ)