

Romans 7:21-25

Rules of the War Within

1. 7:20-21 – The Law of Good and Evil

- a. James instructed to do the law (Eze 36:27) - James 1:8,16,23, 2:9-10, 3:11-12, 4:11,17
- b. *"no more I"* – Paul's issue is performance. He doesn't do what he wants, because ...
- c. *"sin dwelleth in me"* – Don't blame others, sin's name is on your mailbox. 3:9, 7:14
- d. *"I find then a law"* which is not "the law" of OT commandments in v1-16, but a rule
- e. *"when I would do good"* – Suit, shave, shower does not change the old man - Gal 3:2-3
- f. *"evil is present"* – It is important to identify the enemy, and he is in you.
- g. Rule 1 = Good is present, but so is evil (which sounds familiar – Gen 2:9, 17, 3:5, 3:22)

2. 7:22 – The Inward Man

- a. Newell identifies 4 rules in 22-25 - 1) delight, 2) discernment, 3) defeat, 4) deliverance
- b. *"I delight"* – Not glorying in sin (Phi 3:19, 1 Cor 5:6, Rom 6:1, 15)
- c. *"the law of God"* – sounds like David, but now the whole truth, then and now – 6:15-17
- d. The "inward man" also known as "new man", "spiritual man", "walk by faith" (see back)
- e. Paul introduces the spiritual walk, discerning the flesh and spirit, in the Bible.
- f. We were spiritually dead, now quickened, but weak - Eph 3:16, Col 1:9-10, 2 Cor 4:16
- g. Paul is making a right division in sanctification = separate unto God's purpose – Col 2:11

3. 7:23 – The War of the Mind

- a. *"another law"* – 2 laws here, because there are 2 natures. (see back)
- b. *"law of my mind"* = law of God (spirit); *"law in my members"* = law of sin (flesh) – 7:5-6
- c. *"warring against"* – There is a war in us. Not knowing you are in a battle is dangerous.
- d. *"bringing me into captivity"* – the law of sin brings death, condemnation, failure - 6:21
- e. The first mention of mind since Rom 1:28, but now this mind is changed/saved.
- f. Every day you face this battle of what you feed/mind/think/choose old man v. new
- g. Every saved person in Christ is bound to a wicked, mortal, sinful flesh, til the Lord come

4. 7:24 – A Wretched Man

- a. *"O wretched man that I am!"* – A sober look at yourself is necessary for grace to work.
- b. The forlorn (deprives, forsaken, deserted) cry of a man captive to their flesh.
- c. We are encouraged never to think of ourselves this way (in truth) – Job 42:6, Rom 12:3
- d. This is condemnation as expressed by a saved person due to their failure to walk.
- e. The reason you are depressed, despair, condemned is that you try to do on your own.
- f. *"deliver... body of this death"* – forgiveness not needed (1 John 1:9), but deliverance
- g. We do not fight with our flesh – 2 Cor 10:3-4, 1 Tim 6:12, 1 Cor 10:13
- h. We fight with the strength of Christ in us by the Spirit - Eph 6:10-17
- i. To live is Christ, to die is gain – Phi 1:21 – Christ put on mortal flesh and died.
- j. Neither your righteousness nor sanctification comes by the law/flesh – Gal 2:20-21
- k. The saved person flesh does not improve, the spirit is strengthened, and learns to walk.

5. 7:25 – Deliverance through Jesus Christ

- a. *“I thank God”* – The thankful man in contrast to a wretched self-condemned man in v24
- b. Paul knows his deliverer; he is already delivered by what Christ had done, not will do.
- c. *“through Jesus Christ”* - He knows he is wretched, but he is not in despair – 2 Cor 4:3-8
- d. *“So then...”* - You can now identify “my mind” and “my flesh” in the daily battle within
- e. *“I myself serve...”* – This is not salvation of sins, but service with sins present.
- f. Under grace, the flesh does not perform, Christ performed, the Spirit performs.
- g. In this chapter the law is determined to be spiritual but gives us no way to perform.
- h. We need a spiritual help without the law – we need what the Lord Jesus Christ gives.
- i. The victory of this verse continues on into Romans 8 according to the mystery of Christ.

15 Biblical Names Used for the Old Nature

1. In Adam
2. Flesh
3. Sin
4. Carnal mind
5. Old man
6. Outward man
7. Natural man
8. Seen / sight
9. Former conversation
10. Children of disobedience / wrath
11. Child of the Devil
12. Sons of men
13. Sinner
14. Earthy
15. Darkness

15 Biblical Names Used for the New Nature

1. In Christ
2. Spirit
3. Righteousness
4. Spiritual Mind
5. New man
6. Inward man / Inner man
7. Spiritual man
8. Not seen / faith
9. Mind of Christ
10. Servant of righteousness
11. Children of God
12. Son of God
13. Sanctified
14. Heavenly
15. Light