

POSITIONAL - POSSIBILITY - PRACTICAL - VICTORY

Romans 7:14-25 – Inner Conflict & Struggle of the Believer

Our change of position from Adam to Christ has provided us the possibility of practical victory over slavery to our habituated sin patterns so that we might freely live out our life in Christ.

Rom 6 - Paul lays out that our transfer from our position in Adam into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col 1:13) creates the possibilities for believers to experience victory over our sin patterns (body of sin) & live according to the mind of Christ.

Rom 7 - He explains our freedom from the Law and then describes the inner conflict in the believer's soul caused by the process of breaking old thinking patterns (body of death) and the new patterns in Christ we are seeking to form.

Rom 8:1-8 - Our position in Christ has freed us from all condemnation in Adam, while the ministry of God The Holy Spirit frees us to focus on our old thinking stored in the flesh (Old Sin Nature in our cells & old patterns in our brain) or the thoughts given to us by God The Holy Spirit.

Textual Study

- a. Paul develops his discussion by using a series of rhetorical and practical questions – 58 X
- b. Moving from life under the Law to grace/faith was confusing, especially for the Jews and required that these questions be addressed.
 - **Rom 4:1** – what is the relationship of grace & faith to works?
- c. Some rhetorical questions Paul asks in response to the criticisms he was receiving.
 - **Rom 6:1** – should we keep on sinning to make grace more obvious? Of course not!!!
 - **Rom 6:15** – should we keep sinning because we are not under the Law but under grace?
- d. **Position** in Christ, we share His victory over sin and death
 - **Rom 6:3-5** baptized & united with Him in His death & resurrection
 - **Rom 6:8-11** died/Him = justified; we will live with Him; dead to sin but alive to God
- e. **Possibilities: (Aor Subj)** – future possibilities dependent on the believer's volition & choices
 - **Rom 6:4** Possible for the believer to walk in newness of life
 - **Rom 6:6** Possible for the believer to tear down the sinful patterns in brain so that we are no longer enslaved to our Old Sin Nature
- f. **Practical Victory** – living free from Old Sin Nature & living for the Lord
 - **Rom 6:12** – don't allow Old Sin Nature in your body to rule you that you obey its desires (Gal 5:16-17)
 - **Rom 6:13-14** don't yield your body to Old Sin Nature to produce –R but yield your body to God to produce +Righteousness; The Old Sin Nature shall not rule you because you are not under Law, but grace.
 - **Rom 6:16-22** – habituating & ingraining either sinful or spiritual patterns of thinking, feeling, speaking & behaving – enslaved to ideas through using ideas (Heb 5:14)
 - **Rom 8:5-8** mind set on the flesh (Old Sin Nature + Old Man Belief System)

1. Before salvation, we have only our desires attached to our Old Sin Nature & the ideas we believe out of the world to motivate us and guide our lives.

Rom 6:6 - serving sin; **vs.9** – death lording over us; **vs.12** – sin ruling our mortal bodies

Eph 2:1-3 - dead in our trespasses and sins, dominated by world, devil & desires

2. Regeneration at the moment of salvation renews the bel's soul & spirit with eternal life.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

3. Union with Christ makes us divine royalty Royal Family of God through which we hold the highest position of honor, privilege, and responsibility in the creation.

Ephesians 2:5-6 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,

4. Ministry of God The Holy Spirit empowers us to live free from desire attached to the Old Sin Nature & set our mind on desires attached to God The Holy Spirit.

a. Desire is part of the human motivation system and is neither good nor bad in itself.

b. Like faith & fear, desire must have an object to which it is attached by faith

c. Desire connected to the Old Sin Nature – epithumia Lust

Rom 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its desires

Gal 5:16-17, 24 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Rom 13:14 – desires attached to Old Sin Nature; **Eph 4:22** – Old self corrupted by deceitful desires.

d. Desire connected to the Lord – epithumia

Lk 22:15 – Jesus' desire for His last Passover meal with the disciples; **Phil 1:23** – Paul's desire to be with Christ; **1Thess 2:17** desire to see other bel's; **Mt 5:6** hunger & thirst for +R; **Jn 4:13-15** thirst for living water; **Jn 6:35** – Bread of Life meeting bel's hunger; **Jn 7:37** spiritual thirst

5. We determine the direction of our lives by choosing to focus either on the desires and logic attached to Old Sin Nature in the body or desires & logic attached to God The Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:5-7 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to law of God, for it is not even able to do so.

- **Phroneo** – to think, focus the mind, hold an opinion, use a way of thinking

Mt 16:23, Phil 3:19 Peter focused on things of man, not God; **Rom 12:3** think too highly of self; **Rom 12:16** – be like minded with other bel's; **Rom 15:5** think the same thing; **1Cor 13:11** thinking of a child; **Phil 2:5** let this thinking be in you; **Col 3:1** If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Col 3:2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.