

When Grace Draws the Line

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Romans 7:15–24 NLT

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.[a] 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.

21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. **22** I love God's law with all my heart. **23** But there is another power[b] within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. **24** Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? What Paul is talking about here is surrender. Who will rescue me? I want to live for God. I want to be a mighty man of God, but in my flesh I cannot.

- **The Struggle:** Romans 7:15-24 describes a person who knows the law, desires to do good, but finds themselves unable to do it, instead doing the evil they hate.

- **The Cause:** This passage highlights the futility of trying to obey God through human effort, willpower, or "the flesh". It is characterized by a "constant spiritual defeat and bondage to sin," says one interpretation.
- **The Cry:** The section ends with, "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free?" Anyone else find themselves in that place?

Living a Spirit Filled life is not trying harder. It is surrendering control.

Illustration:

F.B. Meyer a 19th century preacher and friend of D.L. Moody said this; "Lord, I have a key in my pocket, and this key is mine. I cannot give it to you, but you may take it."

Surrender is acknowledging our inability to let go and allow the Spirit to take the locked, hidden area of our life and cleanse it.

What key are you holding?

Our life in Christ is more than involvement. There are areas of our life that require surrender, and surrender is laying down our own lives in exchange for His.

You can be involved but never be changed.

1. Self effort cannot repair spiritual separation.

Once we realize the sin we are living in is wrong, our instinct is to fix it. We promise to do better. We try harder, but our own efforts do not produce resurrection.

Isaiah 64:6 NLT

We are all infected and impure with sin.

When we display our righteous deeds,
they are nothing but filthy rags.

Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall,
and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

Psalms 145:17 NLT

The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness.

Righteousness is the foundation of His authority and judgment.

Psalms 89:14 NLT

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.
Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants.

True righteousness is not something we build through effort—that is self-righteousness; rather, it is a gift of God’s grace.

Two types of Godly righteousness:

Positional righteousness:

Philippians 3:8-11 NLT

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that

one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

NO! This is where practiced righteousness comes in. This brings us to the question; I have surrendered my life to Jesus, now what?

Practical righteousness:

Ephesians 4:21-24 NIV

“If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

This is not forced obedience! If I perform well enough God will accept me.

Romans 8:15 NIV

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption.”

Grace has drawn a line and it is calling us to surrender our self control, and into a life of repentance.

2. Repentance means turning from self rule to God’s rule.

If you find yourself haunted, tormented, plagued with the identity warping emotion of shame. My prayer...
God would Fill your heart today with a love that
overwhelms your shame!

Healing From Shame—(Pray) (God help me heal)

Gen 2:25 NIV

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

SHAME-BASED THINKING (3)

- **It cause us to be vulnerable to perfectionism.**

We attempt to silence our shame with perfect performance and find it difficult to admit failure.

- **Shame cause us to be critical of ourselves, which drives us to become critical of others.**

Shamed people shame people.
We hate in others the very sin that we see in ourselves.

- **Shame cause us to use self-defeating thoughts to shield ourselves from disappointment.**

Focus worst possible outcome sabotaging opportunities and relationships. (Reject, Fail, Death)

REPENTANCE IS NOT GOD WANTING YOU TO FEEL LIKE A FAILURE

Context-Peters 2nd sermon, just healed lame beggar “what I have I give to you...make a beeline to those who were responsible for releasing a murderer and killing the Prince of Life. (He identifies those in the audience as those responsible) After connecting them with the reality of what they had done Peter goes off on them then says something surprisingly compassionate...

Acts 3:19 NIV

Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord

Turn to God for times of refreshing

Lift your hands right now and say, God refresh me, fill me with your Holy Spirit and renew my mind, transform my heart into your heart. Make me clean oh God and renew a right spirit within me.

3. You cannot face two directions at the same time.

Closing:

What key are you holding?