

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY CHRISTIAN LIFE? (Romans 7:13-20)

B. The LAW'S Relationship to the SIN NATURE. (7:7-12)

1. A legitimate question: *What shall we say then* (in view of 7:4 & 6)? *Is the law sin?* (7:7a)
2. A definite answer: *Certainly not!* (7:7b)
3. A theological explanation: *On the contrary, I would not have known* {the power of} {the} _____ {nature} *except through the* {Mosaic} _____. (7:7c)
4. A perfect example of this reality – the divine prohibition of the sin of coveting (7:7d -11)
 - a. The *purpose* of the Law: *For I would not have known* _____ *unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."* – {Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21} (7:7c)
 - b. The *provocation* of the Law: *But* {the} _____ {nature}, *taking* {or seizing} _____ {advantage, acting as a base of operation} *by* {by means of} *the commandment*, _____ *all manner* {every kind} *of* _____ *desire*. (7:8a)
 - c. The *practical result* of the Law: *For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once* {previously} *without the law* {when?}, *but when the commandment came*, {the} *sin* {nature} *revived* {from being dormant due to its inherent rebellious nature} *and I* _____ {experienced temporal death by walking after the flesh}. (7:8b - 9)
 - d. The *personal discovery* with the Law: *And the commandment, which was to bring* _____ {a godly life of fellowship, fruitfulness & service to God, 7:4,6}, *I found* {discovered by examination / experience} *to bring* {to result in} _____ {a miserable, fruitless life spiritually}. (7:10)
 - e. The *personal testimony* regarding the Law: *For* {the} _____ {nature}, *taking* {seizing} *occasion* {the opportunity; advantage; acting as a base of sinful activity} *operations by* {by means of} *the commandment* {"You shall not covet"}, _____ {thoroughly deceived} *me, and by it killed me* {the sin nature put me to death}. (7:11)
5. A doctrinal conclusion about the Law: *Therefore, the* _____ *is holy, and the commandment* {is} *holy and just and good*. (7:12) What does this reaffirm again?
6. Another logical question: *Has then what is good* {namely, the Law} *become* {the reason or cause for} *death* {a loss of fellowship with God - temporal death} *to me?* (7:13a)
7. Another dogmatic answer: *Certainly not!* (7:13b)
8. Another theological explanation: *But* {the} _____ {nature}, *that* {hina – in order that} *it might appear* {appear, be recognized, be shown to be the source of} _____ {the acts of sin}, *was* _____ {as a source of temporal} _____ *in me through* {using as a means} *what is good* {the Law}, *so that* {in order that} {the} _____ {nature} *through* {using} *the commandment* {"You shall not covet"} *might become* {for what it is, namely} _____ *sinful*. (7:13c)
9. A principle to remember: *For we* {plural – as believers who know the Law – 7:1} *know that the law is spiritual* {pneumatikos – characterized by being spiritual}, *but* _____ {sarkikos – fleshly, still packing a sin nature even as a believer & allowing its control}, *sold* {sold like a slave but not "to" but...} *under* {hupo – under the governing power of} {the} *sin* {nature}. (7:14) What does this mean?

What have we learned about the sin nature and the Law in this passage? {7:7-14}

- 1) We as believers in Christ still have a _____ that desires to reign in our lives though it has no legal authority to do so. (Romans 6:11-12; 7:7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14)
- 2) The sin nature of the believer is _____ to either rebellious acts of sin or it promotes self-effort to try or attempt to keep it. (7:7-11)
- 3) The problem in our Christian life is not inherently the Law {though we are under grace} but legalistic thinking that results in the _____ using the Law to _____ in the believer. (7:7, 12-13)
- 4) The sin nature unchecked leads to many _____ that seek fulfilment. (7:8)

Principle to remember: The Law, which is holy, just, and good, does not really prevent sin but provokes the sin nature to rebellion or self-reliance to perform it, though there is nothing wrong with the Law which came from God but there is something inherently wrong with us, even after our justification {being declared righteous} before God by faith alone in Christ alone.

C. Discovering the NEW NATURE'S CONFLICT with the SIN NATURE and SPIRITUAL DEFEAT.

{7:15-25} Some questions you need to correctly come to grips with are...

1. **Can the inner conflict & spiritual defeat you experience as a believer be baffling & very confusing at times?** _____. *"For what I am doing {by way of sin or human good}, I do _____".* (7:15a) Does this describe you?
2. **Can the Christian life be lived by your sheer will-power and inner desire?** ____ *"For what {the will of God} _____ to do {desire to do due to a new nature}, that I do _____ practice.* {7:15b}
3. **Can you actually end up doing the very opposite of what you desire and even hate?** ____ *"but what I _____, that _____".* (7:15c)
4. **While God wants you to succeed in your Christian life, how is God using your failures?** *If {1st}, then, I do {by way of sin or human good} what _____ {desire} _____ to do, I agree with the law that it is good.* (7:16) What does this indicate to the failing but humble & teachable believer?
5. **What is God seeking to teach you to be your real source of your spiritual defeat?** *"But now, it is no longer I {as a new creation in Christ – 6:3-7; Gal. 2:20} who do it, but {it is 'the'} _____ {nature} that _____".* (7:17) What and where then is your greatest problem? {6:11-13} Is Paul seeking to indulge his flesh or shirk responsibility for his decisions and failures?
6. **Does God change your "flesh" at salvation / justification?** ____ *"For I know that _____ (that is, in _____) ..."* (7:18a) Why does Paul qualify *"in me"* with *"in my flesh"*?
7. **What does God want you to learn about yourself that is vital to living the Christian life?** *"For I _____ that in me (that is, in my flesh) _____ dwells".* (7:18b) Are you learning to "know" this reality? What should this drive us away from by way of dependence or deception?
8. **What must God teach you about your new nature vs the sin nature that still dwells in you?** *"for _____ {desire} is _____ with me {due to a new nature}, but _____ to _____ what is good I do not find."* (7:18c) How has Paul progressed in his understanding of the spiritual struggle & defeat he is experiencing? But what is he still missing?
9. **Why do believers live in spiritual defeat?** _____; _____; _____; _____.
 - When believers do not understand Romans 7, what wrong conclusions do they embrace about the Christian life?