

Dealing with the Old Nature

Romans 7

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Romans 6:6

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11

Two Observations about the Christian Life

- 1. My old nature may be dead, but is it still kicking.**

At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

Galatians 4:29

- 2. Our areas of weakness may differ, but we are all vulnerable.**

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so

that you do not do what you want.

Galatians 5:17

**We are free from the Law,
Paul uses the analogy of Marriage
Romans 7:1-7**

**We are free from the law,
analogy of marriage
the law has authority over a man only as
long as he lives **Romans 7:1****

For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.

Romans 7:2

*So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. **Romans 7:4***

*But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. **Romans 7:6***

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. **Romans 7:7a**

The purpose of the law was to show us our need of a Savior

For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." **Romans 7:7b**

Paul admits his failure to keep the law. The law is spiritual. We are unspiritual, sold as slaves to sin.

Romans 7:14-23

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. **Romans 7:15**

As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. **Romans 7:17**

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **Romans 7:21**

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Romans 7:24

*I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **Romans 7:18***

*What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! **Romans 7:24***

*we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **Romans 8:37***

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. **2 Timothy 4:7-8***

Spiritual Lessons from Romans 7

1. Expect a battle, be prepared

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

1 Corinthians 10:12

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. **1 Corinthians 10:13**

2. Confess your weaknesses, be accountable

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

3. Be able to laugh at yourself

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

4. Rely on grace

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **Romans 8:1***

5. Feed the new man

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. **1 John 2:15-17***

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20***