

The Battle You Can't Lose!

Romans 7:1-25

Tools of discipleship are not rules of discipleship!

Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?

Romans 7:1

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Galatians 5:17

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Colossians 3:9-10

We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

TOOL OR RULE?

- Competitive
- Judgmental
- Condemned
- Passive

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Romans 7:1-25

I. Internal Not External

Sin hates the law of God

The ultimate motive of sin is to be God

*So, did something meant to be good become death to me? Certainly not! It was not the law but sin unmasked that produced my spiritual death. The **sacred commandment merely uncovered** the evil of sin so it could be seen for what it is. For we know that the law is divinely inspired and comes from the spiritual realm, but I am a human being made of flesh and trafficked as a slave under sin's authority.*

Romans 7:13-14

I'm a mystery to myself, for I want to do what is right, but end up doing what my moral instincts condemn. And if my behavior is not in line with my desire, my conscience still confirms the excellence of the law. And now I realize that it is no longer my true self doing it, but the unwelcome intruder of sin in my humanity.

*For I know that nothing good lives within the flesh of my fallen humanity. The longings to do what is right are within me, but **will-power is not enough to accomplish it.***

My lofty desires to do what is good are dashed when I do the things I want to avoid. So if my behavior contradicts my desires to do good, I must conclude that it's not my true identity doing it, but the unwelcome intruder of sin hindering me from being who I really am.

Romans 7:15-20

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Romans 7:1-25

II. Power Of The Spirit Not Weakness Of The Flesh

For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:3-4

III. Motivated By Love Not Motivated By Fear

*Through my experience of this principle, I discover that even when I want to do good, evil is ready to sabotage me. Truly, deep within my true identity, I love to do what pleases God. But I discern another power operating in my humanity, waging a war against the moral principles of my conscience and bringing me into captivity as a prisoner to the “law” of sin—this unwelcome intruder in my humanity. What an agonizing situation I am in! So who has the power to rescue this miserable man from the unwelcome intruder of sin and death? I give all my thanks to God, for His mighty power has finally provided a way out through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One! So if left to myself, the flesh is aligned with the law of sin, but **now my renewed mind** is fixed on and submitted to God’s righteous principles.*

Romans 7:21-25

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

Romans 8:15