

What Is The Christian Walk? (Pt. 3)

1. We were people in the flesh in Adam (Rom. 5:12; 7:5) but we are now people in the Spirit in Christ. (Rom. 5:5, 17; 7:6).
2. God allowed the Jews in their rebellion against Him to try to relate to Him as fallen humanity in the sinful flesh in Adam governed by the Law to demonstrate once-and-for-all that it was impossible for fallen humanity to bear fruit and receive God's blessings on that basis.
3. Therefore, the Jews (and those Gentiles associated with them at that time) (and any Gentiles today foolish and bewitched enough to think they need to go back to the Law! (Gal. 3:1-3) needed to know that they not only died to sin (Rom. 6) but that they also died to the Law. (Rom. 7:4,6)

4. The problem wasn't with the Law. Nor is it that God set the bar too high. The problem was indwelling sin that prevented them from getting over even the low bar of the basic human righteousness that the Law called for.

5. Paul thought that he would use the Law to restrain “sins” and do God’s good things. When, in fact, the Law just woke up “Sin” which used the Law against him, generating all kinds of coveting, bringing condemnation and death. (Rom. 7:22).

6. The Law showed that committing external overt sins wasn't Paul's main problem. Rather, he had an internal hidden heart that was full of coveting, sinful desires, selfish interests, which overpowered and defeated all his attempts to do God's good things, making him "die" to his Christian walk and service that pleases God (Rom. 7:8-13).
7. When Paul took his eyes off Christ and His Cross and the Agape Love displayed there, he stopped accessing the resources and power God makes available there by faith and instead places them on himself, relying on his own resources and power, resulting in a defeated person (6:14, 24).

8. The responsible “I” is the believer who has received a new spiritual nature in Christ that can know the good things of God but has no power in himself to do them. He will either be empowered in the flesh by Sin unto condemnation and death. Or he will be empowered in the Spirit by Righteousness unto no condemnation and life.
 - a. If he relies on self through the flesh under the governance of the Law, Sin revives, wars with him, and overpowers him so that he dies to or is separated from the walk that pleases God (Rom. 7:22-23).
 - b. If he relies on Christ through the Spirit under the governance of Grace, Sin doesn’t enter the picture, and God produces the walk and service that pleases Him in and through him, bringing joy, victory (Rom. 7:25a; 8:1-4).

DISTANT PAST:

Paul was unsaved, in the flesh, a Jew born under the Law, under sin and death.

Rom. 7

Paul relating to God from the sinful flesh with the Law: Sin revived, he died (in his Christian walk).

RECENT PAST:

Paul was saved, in the Spirit, without the Law and under Grace that led to Righteousness and Life.

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IN THE PRESENT:

Walk in Reliance on self and one's own resources?
Or, walk in reliance on God and His resources by faith?

FUTURE:

Paul needed to return to Christ and His Cross as God's new creation under Grace that leads to Righteousness and Life.

Rom. 8

Paul relating to God from the Spirit where righteousness resides, under Grace: Sin died, he is alive (in his Christian walk).

9. This happens because of some very important operating principles, fixed laws with regard to the “I”:
 - a. The Law of God—Mosaic Law—Paul saw the good things of God but had no power to do them (7:22).
 - b. The Law of the Renewed Mind that can receive the things of God but has no power within itself (7:22-23).
 - c. The Law of indwelling Sin residing in the flesh overpowers the Law of the Mind (7:23).
 - d. And the Law of Sin that brings condemnation and death, which leads to defeat and despair: Oh, wretched man, who shall deliver me from having my body empowered by sin rather than God? (7:24; 8:2)

LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

GOD'S GOOD LAW





**LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF
LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS**

10. The key to the Christian life is NOT going back to the Good things of God's Law but to continue on in the Great things of God's Grace!

- a. The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus is the only law that can over power sin and death (7:25; 8:1-3)
- b. It FULFILLS the requirements of the Law because it accomplishes far more than the Law ever demanded (8:4).

11. The Christian Life cannot be lived out by the energy of the flesh. It needs the resurrection power and life of the Crucified Christ risen from the dead. (Eph. 3:15-23)

12. And only PAULINE GRACE teaches this. (Titus 2:11-15)