

3rd Yr. Ambassadors

Lesson 30



The Laws of Struggle

A Study of Romans 7

Word Definitions

Wretched – miserable, distressed.

Carnal – acting like an unsaved person; following the urges of the sinful human nature. Carnal is the opposite of spiritual or mature.

Sometimes the Christian journey can be a **struggle**. Okay, many times the Christian life can be a struggle but this is the reality of following Christ. Learning how to live as an Ambassador for Christ in the midst of people who do evil things, a society that misrepresents sex and love, friends who like to party, drugs everywhere and violence being reported all over the world are tough things. The world can be quite crazy!

However, the struggle between who we were before we became Ambassadors for Christ (the old nature) and who we are as Ambassadors for Christ will continue to be a battle as long as we live on earth (Gal. 5:17, Romans 7:23).

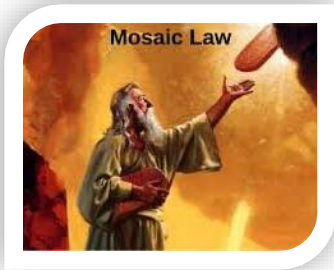


In this lesson you will study the 4 Laws that the Apostle Paul uses to explain why we struggle as Christians and how you can live purposefully and successfully as Ambassadors for Christ. **Go ahead and read Romans chapter 7 first. Then you can dive into the Lesson for greater clarity.**

1. The Law of Moses (Better known as the 10 Commandments)

The Apostle Paul wrote about the Law of Moses, a law he had already mentioned several times in his letter to the Roman Church. The Law of Moses was the written account of what God expected from the people of Israel. Remember; the people to whom Paul is writing would have been very familiar with the Mosaic Law. Some of the people (like Paul himself) were Jews by birth. The law was their religion. The Gentiles in the Roman Church could have had access to

the writings of Moses, so they, too, would have been familiar with the law itself. So what are we getting at? Paul explained that there wasn't anything wrong with the law itself. God gave us the law so people would know exactly what sin is. The law defines sin (Romans 7:7). But if we had to follow the Law of Moses in order to get or keep our salvation, **then we would be saved by works, not by grace** (Ephesians 2:8-9).



Since Paul had studied the Law of Moses, he knew some facts he wanted to share with the Romans. Let's look at a few:

- The Mosaic Law is not a set of rules for the Christian to follow in order to be acceptable to God or to get into Heaven. The Christian is already acceptable to God because of Jesus Christ's work on the Cross. As Christians, we can't keep the law as a way of life apart from following Jesus Christ.

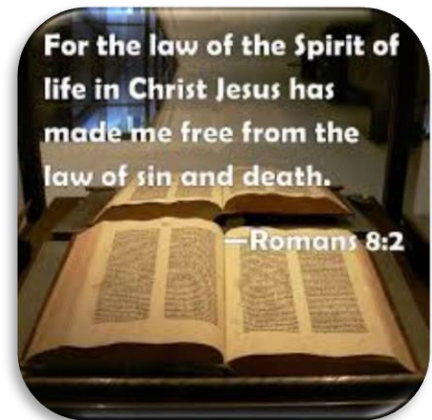
Here are some things that should be clarified for you as you read through Romans 7:

- The law does not provide you with the ability to do the good that is needed in your everyday life (see verse 6).
- The law can only show you the guilt of your sin (verse 7).
- The law creates discouragement, frustration, and conflict in your life and it doesn't give you victory (verses 15-20).

Paul had already explained the standing the Roman Christians had in Christ (chapter 5). The law doesn't give us victory. It is our relationship with Christ that gives us victory. Paul continues his explanation by writing about three additional laws. These laws are defined differently than the Mosaic Law. They aren't **codes of conduct**, but rather **principles** which always hold true. Let's take a look at them:

2. The Law of Sin and Death (another name for the old nature).

In Romans 8:2, Paul wrote about this law that governed us before we were saved. Our lives before knowing Christ as Savior were characterized by sin and disobedience. Now that we are Christians, that law of sin and death is superseded (overtaken). Yet it is still active, battling against the third law.



3. The Law of the Spirit of Life (another name for the new nature.)

The Holy Spirit works through the law of the Spirit of life in all Believers. At the moment of salvation, we each receive new life in Christ. Instantly, there is a conflict. The new creation we are in Christ struggles against the old sinful nature we were (7:19-25). **Both want to express themselves through our thoughts, words, and actions.** However, the Holy Spirit lives in the Christian to enable our new nature to be in control of our lives. **Then we produce good works which glorify God** (Eph. 2:10). We have a choice. We can choose to let our old nature be in

control (*how we used to live and act*), or we can choose to let our new nature be in control (*living as Ambassadors for Christ*). But it is a choice!

4. The Law of the Mind (*another name for our new nature, verse 23*).

The fourth law that the Apostle Paul writes about is the law of the mind. You see, after Paul's conversion (Acts 9), he desired to do what was right. Remember, he knew the Mosaic Law; he knew what "right" was. He discovered in his own strength that he still couldn't do the good he knew he should do (*you know what that is like –right?*). Paul needed to rely on the Holy Spirit to help him do what was right.

The struggle between the old and new nature caused the Apostle Paul major problems (*as it does us*). He had questions in his own heart such as:



"Why can't I do what I know is right? Why do I do the things which I know are wrong?" The battle between doing what I know is right and the desire to do something opposite is an ongoing battle, not just in Paul, but in us as well.

That is why Paul, in pain, cries out, "*O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*" (verse 24).

Yes, Paul was in pain. Yes, Paul struggled. But he knew the answer to his struggle. He understood that he was no longer under the law, but under grace! He

understood that the answer is not in the Law of Moses. The answer is in the Person, Jesus Christ the Lord. He understood that in Christ there is no condemnation. That's what he writes about in chapter 8: the solution to the struggle!

To give you a current "take" on the struggle we are studying in Romans, let's view part of the lyrics from The 116 Clique (Lecrae, Trip Lee, Tedashi, and others!) "13 Letters" song about the book of Romans. If you want to listen to the whole song, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T19kgtHORzc>

*At the cross the wrath of God was spent on Jesus
On behalf of all who repent and believe this (3:25)
We receive His perfect righteousness (4:5)
In exchange, believers cursed lives are His (4:25)
Behold the blessedness for earth's cold residents
Chapter 4- Paul defends it from the Old Testament (4:1)
Up to this point, we saw the need for justification (3:19-20)
In chapter 5 and following, we see it's implications (5:1)
In service and purity, we yearn for maturity
Empowered by Christ, who gives eternal security (5:9-11)
Slowly but surely, He removes every vice
Raised to newness of life through our union with Christ (6:4, 14, 17)*



*But chapter 7 finds us struggling with sin (7:15, 21)
It's buggin' us within but He loves us to the end (7:24-25)
Even with complications through sin's occupation
For God's consecrated there's no condemnation (8:1)
The Holy Spirit inside, He comforts like no other
He convinces us we're God's children even when we suffer (8:16-17)
Nothing in creation could ever separate us
From the love of God in Christ Jesus who saved us (8:39)
In chapter 9 we see God is sovereign in His mercy (9:15)
His dealings with Israel shows He's working out His purposes (9:11)
By the end of 11 it's Jew and Gentile together
United in Christ to His glory forever!*

All Christians struggle at some point of their journey. We want to do what is right (*our new nature*) but we must remember that it is the Holy Spirit that helps us to live for Christ.

Memory Verse

“But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the letter.” –Romans 7:6

Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fryDISrD_Wg

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Lesson 30 Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/ZMp8AZrMeKoSXu4u8>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links on our website in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: _____

1. How long do you have to be a Christian before the struggle between your old life and your new life in Christ stops?
2. The Law of Moses was a written account of....
3. Why were the Romans familiar with the writings of Moses?
4. God gave the law so people could know....
5. True or False. The law is a set of rules for the Christian to follow.
6. What are three facts that Paul wanted the Romans to know about the Mosaic Law?
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7. Fill in the blanks. The law of sin and death governed us _____
_____.
8. Fill in the blanks. The law of sin and death battles against the law of the _____.
9. Why was Paul in anguish?
10. Describe in your own words the “*weapons*” we need to win the battle between our old, sinful self and our new nature.