

2nd Yr. Ambassadors

Lesson 19



I'm Struggling, Yo!

Read Romans 7

Love Unconditional Verse 1:

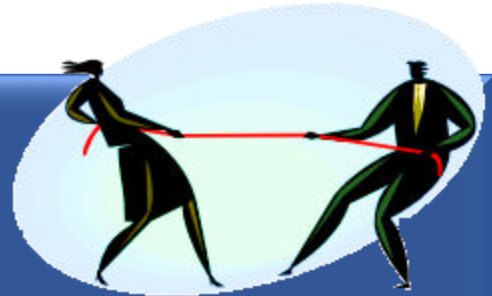
5:46 in the morning tossing and turning cause I'm worried about if we gone break up in the morning
When I see her after class cause I messed up big, for two days I made her mad this got me stressed out kid
And even though we're still together it seems I'm losing her heart, it's like every time I disappoint her we grow further apart
Why does this seem to be the norm for life? I've gone through life feeling the blame of losing love cause I wronged the right
Dawg, I promise I know that I'm not perfect man and my life, it's the reason why churches stand
But it doesn't help when I'm a hurting man, those closest to me call me a burden man
Because their thoughts of me, a sinner, because they bought for me a dinner, I feel rejected, I mean their hugs are even costing me
Some feel the boss of me and if I buck they tossing me, awfully I feel rejected, this loves killing me softly.

It was love unconditional that bought me back, it was love unconditional that made me accepted It was love unconditional that taught me that my salvation is the proof that I'm never rejected It was love unconditional that gave me grace, it was love unconditional that made me accepted It was love unconditional He took my place, my salvation is the proof that I'm never rejected.

Song: Love Unconditional

Artist: Tedashii Album:

Kingdom People 2006 Reach Records, LLC

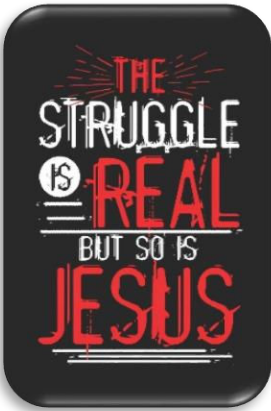


If you want to listen to this song, click here: <https://youtu.be/nM6Y61-CI88>

In the last lesson, we talked about the role of the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit is able to take care of you. But as Tedashii stated in the song above, if the Holy Spirit is with me, why am I still struggling? That's a good question and we will answer that and give you some helps to decrease your concern.

How Long?

You may be asking how long do you have to be a Christian before the struggle stops? The answer is Heaven! We will battle with our old, sinful nature until Jesus brings us home to Him. But don't get discouraged! Let me tell you why.



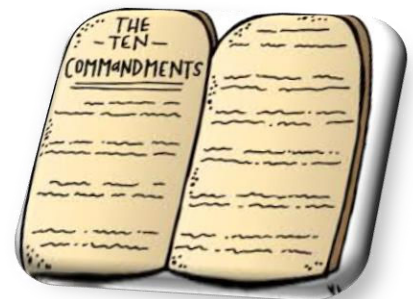
Galatians 5:17 states *"For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want."* and Romans 7:23 says *"... I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members."*

To clarify this, Paul wrote about four different laws that affect how we live: **The Law of Moses; The law of sin and death; the law of the Spirit of life; and the law of the mind (or new nature).**

Law of Moses was the written account of what God expected from the people of Israel. Remember, the people whom Paul was writing to 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. Now why is this so important? 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 grace (Eph 2:8-9).

So again, you ask, what is the big deal here? Well Paul studied the law of Moses (10 commandments), so he knew some facts that he wanted to share with the Roman Christians and us too.

- The Mosaic Law is not a set of rules for the Christian to follow in order to be accepted by God. The Christian is accepted by God only because of Jesus' death on the cross. We can't keep the law as a way of life as Christians.
- The law does not provide the ability to do the good that is needed in our everyday lives (Rom. 7:6).
- The law can only show us the guilt of our sin (Rom. 7:7).
- The law creates discouragement, frustration, and conflict in our life, and it doesn't give us victory (Rom. 7:15-20). It is our relationship with Jesus Christ that gives us V-I-C-T-O-R-Y.



The other three laws are defined differently from the Law of Moses. These three laws are principles that are always true.

Law of Sin and Death (or the old nature) was the law that controlled us before we were saved (knew Christ as our Savior). Our lives at that time made us capable of committing all kinds of acts of sin and disobedience with no bad feelings. Now that we are Christians, this law does not control us, but it still battles with the law of the Spirit of life.

Law of the Spirit of life

(our new nature). At the moment of salvation, we each received a new life in Christ. This comes through the presence of the Holy Spirit in us. When this happened there was an instant conflict that developed. The new creation we are in Christ struggles against the old nature we are in sin (Rom. 7:19-25). Both natures want to express themselves through our thoughts, words, and actions. The Holy Spirit lives in us to give our new nature the power to control and dominate our old nature. When this happens, we produce good works which glorify God. However, we have a choice. We can choose to let our old nature be in control, or we can choose to let our new nature be in control. The one you feed the most will be in control the most. That explains your struggle.



Law of the Mind

After Paul's conversion to Christ he desired to do what was right and pleasing to God. Even though he knew the Mosaic Law, he now discovered what doing right really was. He began to learn that he couldn't do the good he knew he should do in his own strength. He needed to rely on the Holy Spirit.

The struggle between the old and new nature caused Paul major problems. Why couldn't he do what he knew was right? Why did he do the things which he knew were wrong? Those are the same battles we face. That's why Paul said,

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? –Romans 7:24

The word wretched means miserable, distressed. Paul struggled, but he knew the answer to his struggle. He understood that he was no longer under law, but under grace! He understood that the answer is not in the law of Moses. The answer is in the Person: Jesus Christ our Lord. He understood that in Christ there is no condemnation. That's what he writes about next-- the solution to the struggle. We will look at this in our next lesson.

Paul uses the example of a husband and wife to illustrate his point. He says that as long as a woman has a husband, she is bound by law to that husband for as long as he lives (Romans 7:2-4). When her husband dies, that law no longer applies. She is no longer legally (by law) bound to him and is free to marry another man. That law that legally united the husband and wife is no longer in effect since the husband is dead. A dead man cannot live by a law. The same concept applies to our Christian lives. Our old sinful self has been crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). Our new life is in Christ. It doesn't need a set of laws.



Memory verse

But now we have been released from the law, for we died with Christ, and we are no longer captive to its power. Now we can really serve God, not in the old way by obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way, by the Spirit.

Romans 7:6

Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fryDISrD_Wg

Ambassadors

Year 2 Lesson 19 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/6ZJmMBYrLWxiLCLS9>

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 the 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, sinful self and your new life in Christ stops?
2. The law of Moses was a written account of...
3. Why were the Romans (Gentiles) 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 the three facts that Paul wanted the Romans to know about the Mosaic Law (10 Commandments)?
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 pain or feeling very bad; what was he struggling with?
10. Describe in your own words the “weapons” we need to win the battle between our old, sinful self and our new nature in Christ.