

Flesh and Spirit

- *I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. Rom 7:9*
- Once we commit a sin it enters our subconscious mind.
- At first a “new” sin is uncomfortable, as other new skills
- We become more proficient as we “practice” sin.
- It becomes 2nd nature to us. A conditioned response.
- Learning it is a sin bringing death ... doesn't stop it immediately. It must be painfully removed:
- *If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire. Mt. 18:8-9*

Knowing it is Sin ... Still Can't Stop

- Learning God's Law and knowing it is a sin bringing death ... doesn't help to stop it immediately.
- *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. Rom. 7:14-16*
- A spiritual and fleshly view of sin: good law vs sold to sin
- I do not understand: My mind has changed but:
- What I will and purpose to do I do not practice.
- What I hate and will not to do I practice.
- I agree with the law that it is good.

- *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Rom. 7:18-20*
- The conditioned responses to sin are “*in my flesh.*”
- “*Flesh*” as defined here and elsewhere by the Holy Spirit is the place in our being where “*nothing good dwells.*”
- It is the “*tent*” that must be put off. It is one part of “*me.*”
- *I must put off my tent, just as Jesus showed me. 2Pet. 1:14*
- Evil dwelling in the flesh overcomes the good in the mind creating a terrible conflict and battle.
- The good I will to do I do not do
- The evil I will not to do I practice.

The Plight of the Unbeliever

- *I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Rom 7:21-25*
- A principle so fixed he calls it a law— as the law of gravity
- Evil remains present – though I will to do good.
- A delight in the law in the “*inward man*”
- A different law (principles of making choices) “*in my members*” (the eyes, hands and feet, etc. to be cut off).
- A war between law in members and law in mind.
- Law in members brings into captivity to law of sin.
- This battle brings wretchedness to all unbelievers.

God “*makes us free*”

- *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then I of myself with the mind, indeed, serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. 8 There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death. Rom 7:25-8:2*
- The battle continues after baptism into Christ (Rom 6:1ff)
- The mind serves ‘*the law of God*’ the ‘*flesh the law of sin*’
- No condemnation if “*in Christ Jesus*”
- ‘*law of the Spirit of life*’ frees from ‘*law of sin and death*’
- Christians are free:
- *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Rom 6:14-16*

The Key that Unlocks the Truth

- *For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace: 7 because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be: 8 and they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Rom 8:5-8*
- When the flesh is in control, it fills the mind.
- When the Spirit is in control it fills the mind.
- Nothing changes – when the flesh controls we are in sin
- When the Spirit is in control we repent and fight!
- When the flesh is in control – death
- When the Spirit is in control – life and peace
- The flesh is enmity against God ... Can't be placed under submission to God's law ...
- When the flesh is in control – Can't be pleasing to God.

No Longer in Flesh if Led by the Spirit

- *9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ... 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. Rom 8:9, 12*
- Led by the Holy Spirit is the key...
- If there is no fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) we are not Christ's and there is no evidence the Spirit dwells in us.
- We now have an obligation ... a precious gift from God.
- We CAN stop living in the flesh ... we might fall into it for a moment, but we don't live in it any longer.
- The quicker we repent to sooner we are led by the Spirit
- The longer we remain in sin, the longer we live according to the flesh.

Slaves of Sin or Slaves of Obedience

- *Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. Rom 6:16-19*
- When the flesh is in control we are slaves to sin leading to death
- We were slaves of sin (Rom. 7)
- Now we are slaves of righteousness (Rom. 8)
- The form of doctrine (baptism Rom 6:3-8)
- Set free from sin (no condemnation) slaves of righteousness.

Presenting our Members in Service

- *For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. Rom 6:19-23*
- We presented our members to uncleanness/lawlessness (Rom. 7). Now delivered present our members as slaves of righteousness (Rom. 8)
- Now, set free from sin we are slaves of God.

Living according to Flesh or Spirit

- *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Rom. 8:13-14*
- Live according to the flesh when we allow the flesh to control our decisions and live in fleshly lusts.
- Live according to the Spirit when we put to death the deeds of the body (repentance).
- If we are so led by the Spirit, we are sons of God.

The Battle Summed Up

- *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal 5:16-21*

Conclusion

- *So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. 8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Rom 7:25-8:5*
- Battle continues after we become a Christian, but with the help of the Holy Spirit we put them to death one by one.