

Romans 7

("Dead to the Law")

By: Sylvia Pearce

(This is a chapter from, "The Treasures of Darkness.")

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God"

(Romans 7:4).

Since we are delivered from the old sinful nature, which is Satan in us, by the body death, then why do we still sin? This question is exactly what Paul is addressing in Romans seven. Technically, we are "dead to sin" by the bodily death and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:2). Yet experientially, it doesn't seem to work too well, because there is yet one all important final lesson to learn, and it has to do with our supposed self-sufficiency. That is why Paul brings out the second fact that by the body death, we are also "dead to the law." For the outer law presupposes that we have a life of our own with the power to live and keep the law by self-effort. God must expose this lie, so he uses the law to accomplish just that.

Self-sufficient self patterns run deep in our consciousness. These false patterns were put into mankind by Satan at the fall. It is really his mentality. When Romans 6:6 says, "Knowing this that our old man has been crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin," it means that the old satanic nature was put to death with Christ, releasing my spirit from the satanic spirit. The verse goes on to say that the full purpose of this release is to destroy "the body of sin," which is satanic self-effort expressed in my humanity. Don't most of us Christians say this to ourselves: "I will do better next time, that is, if I try harder."

The Satanic "I will" infected mankind at the Fall (see: "Origin of the Lie"). This infection is so deep in our consciousness that we falsely believe the human container can willfully do the works of God. "I will do the works of God, or I will be like Jesus, or even I will keep myself from evil." These are false lies that most Christians live by. That is why it is absolutely necessary for the Holy Spirit to expose this falsehood. We can never know the glory of being a perfect nothing until this exposure comes.

The mystery begins to unravel in Romans 6:14, "sin shall not have dominion over us because we are not under the law, but under grace." Now if we turn this verse around we will see what it is saying: Sin shall have dominion over you if you are under the law! A self that tries to keep the law (I ought to perform) by self-effort operates from a false illusionary power. I Corinthians 15:56 says, "the strength of sin is the law." The more we try, the more the law shouts at us to do more. So, trying to do good becomes the believer's greatest sin. That is very subtle, because it seems good. Yet Satan himself was not trying to be evil when he said, "I will be like the most High God" (Isa. 14:14). He was trying to be good like God. So like Paul in Romans 7:19, trying to be good became his evil.

Human performance based on self-sufficiency is a mentality of a satanic realm that invaded our consciousness through the Fall and continues to hold us in bondage as long as we live from it. There is a scripture in Hebrews 9:14 that promises us that through the Cross we will have a cleansed consciousness: "Purge (cleanse) your consciousness from dead works to serve a living God." And again in Hebrew 10:2, "Once purged we should have no more consciousness of sins." We Christians are more "sin" conscious than "Christ" conscious. The scriptures are clear, Christians are provided a way through the Cross to be cleansed of sin, as well as from a condemned sin-consciousness, and Romans 7 shows us how.

The unknown factor in the Christian is that the human is, and always has been, the instrument of someone else. Yet in Romans 7, the one manipulating Paul is Satan. "The evil which I would not, that I do; Oh wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death" (Romans 7:19&24). Our problem is that we have

not yet discovered the secret concerning our humanity, and the way to discover it is through the roller coaster dilemma of trying and failing.

Man has to be broken under the bondage of Satan because he must see the one simple fact that he is only a vessel. In Romans 7 Paul is being controlled by Satan, when he is actually a child of God. What opposites! Heaven and hell in the same body. I tell you it is the most radical situation any man can be in. The self is shattered into a million pieces. All the false idols of "I can do it" crumble. The false pride that is built on the foundation of false goodness falls on its face before the commandment of "Thou shall have no other gods before me." We must be naked and stripped of all vain ideas of self-improvement; then we will finally see our total helplessness. Before I was a Christian I had to see myself utterly hopeless without Christ, and now I have to see myself utterly helpless and weak as a born-again person. Hopeless sinners and helpless saints. Both are necessary!

Weak humanity is always and only a vessel, a simple clay pot, nothing more than a helpless container of someone else. The Christian can not really unite in oneness to her true husband, Christ, while still half way thinking she is able to do some good. The truth is that we (the human) have never been able to produce one ounce of good, nor one ounce of evil apart from our husband and mate. For the human (the female) is a neutral container and not the producer of her own content.

This is the greatest mystery in the universe and can only be seen by its opposite misused form first. "Unless we have plainly once for all seen our problem was Satan not us, and our release is Christ not us, we stumble along where we should be 'mounting with wings like eagles' (Isaiah 40:31) and running without weariness and walking without fainting." (Grubb, Norman; The Law of Opposites).

God commands Satan to do his last and final work on us Christians. This radical stripping is done at God's appointed time, for only He knows how to cleanse his created vessel. God says in Deuteronomy 32:39, "I, even I, am He, I wound, and I heal." As in Job, God says again, "Have you (Satan) considered my servant Job?" God uses his convenient agent, Satan, to do the final work of

tearing down all the remnant of false sufficiency and expose the fact that self-sufficiency is not produced by us, but by Satan.

“Yet, the Cross has to be real before there can be a steady realization of the resurrection. It is a real death in experience, and probably there has to be a period when we are much more conscious of our having died with Him than having risen with Him. By no other means can we be understanding servants of Christ. We must have really tasted of the self-defeating activities of independent self in our redeemed lives and have really become soured on them. We must have come to some final point of desperation and despair to have learned our lesson with an utter finality that this way of life, of us serving Christ rather than of Him serving Himself in and by us, is a spill-over into our new lives of the great curse of the Fall, the delusion of self-sufficiency. It has to be a revelation--that the ultimate form of sin is a misuse of self, just as it then can become a personal revelation that the misuse of self is what was removed in the cross and is thus removed in us.” (Grubb, Norman P. God Unlimited; pg. 63).