

Victory Over The Flesh

ROMANS 6-8

6:1-11 – Positional Victory in Christ → The Possibility of Practical Victory in Time

6:12-23 – Practical Victory – breaking free from slavery to sinful habits of thinking & behavior

Rom 6:1-6 Our Position in Christ opens the possibilities of the Christian life in time – subjunctive mood.

- a. **6:4** – walk in newness of life – New Man created according to God’s pattern
- b. **6:6** – destroy the acquired thinking patterns that have resulted from life under Old Sin Nature

6:12-14 Choosing to break our Master/Slave/Yielding relationship with the Old Sin Nature - Choosing to embrace a Master/Slave/Yielding relationship with God – re-directing our desires (Gal 5:16-17)

- a. **Yield - Paristemi** – present, place besides, surrender, give in; **6:13** – yielding to Old Sin Nature – yield to God.
- b. Confession reinstates to fellowship, yielding obediently allows God, the Holy Spirit to be dominant influence of thinking

6:16-23 Enslavement of the will from habituation (auto reactions) caused by consistent choices to fulfill hunger of the soul by yielding to either the Old Sin Nature or to God, the Holy Spirit.

- a. **Vs 16** to whom you yield your will to obey you are slaves either to sin/death or obedience unto perfect Righteousness (+R).
 - Consistently yield to Old Sin Nature w/out confession and doctrine → journey into enslavement & sin unto death
 - Consistently yield to obey God → journey into voluntary enslavement to Him → Practical +R & maturity
- b. **Vs 19** acceleration & entrenching of slavery Old Sin Nature – **yield to impurity → iniquity unto more iniquity**

7:1-6 – The Marriage Metaphor – Married to the Law/ Old Sin Nature – Married to Christ/New Man

- a. We died to the Law in Christ, and we are now engaged to Christ to be His bride

7:7-13 The Righteous Purpose of the Law – dramatically expose the total depravity of the Old Sin Nature.

- a. **Vs 7-8** Recognizing sin (the rules & boundaries) – Provoking me to sin by telling me that I’m not allowed to do it.
- b. **Vs 9-13** Revealing spiritual death and temporal death – that sin might be seen as utterly sinful
- c. **Vs 14-23** Believer’s Inner Conflict – desire, love, and loyalty to the ex-husband (Old Sin Nature) or new husband (Christ)
 - o **Vs 14** The Flesh: sarx - Pauline term for Old Sin Nature – 14X in Romans (6:19; 7:5, 14, 18, 25; 8:4-13)

7:14-23 – Inner Conflict – Double Minded – vs 23 inner war waged by old patterns to take our will captive.

- a. **Rom 7:15** For that which I am doing (**katergazomai**), I do not understand; for I am not practicing (**prasso**) what I desire, but I am doing (**poieo**) the very thing I hate.
 - **Three different phrases & three different words** in vs 15 for “**doing**” indicating different types of choices.
 - Programmed, subconscious reactions, daily routines & practices & moment to moment actions

1. The Flesh: Paul’s term for the Old Sin Nature & Old Man Belief System because the corruption of sin is located in the human body

- a. **Our Nature:** instinctive-inherent characteristics – man’s created nature was Godly; became corrupted in the fall
- b. Our Old Sin Nature is in our physical body & causes a selfish, self-centered view of life instead of a God-centered view
 - We believe that getting what we need & want is what is right & even God must work toward that end
 - When denied what we desire → frustration, despair, disillusioned, anger, blame, hatred
- c. Without God we initially form self-serving beliefs that are stored in the neural networks of the brain → habits become automatic reactions to relationships & external events – the will is **enslaved** to habits of thinking
- d. After salvation this automatic thinking remains in our flesh, continually seeking to regain dominance (Rom. 7:23)
 - Neural networks firing automatically when activated by specific circumstances – Old Man reactions

2. **Two Aspects of the Old Sin Nature & Old Man Belief System – Pursue Pleasure & Prevent Pain**
 - a. **Desire:** Hunger & Thirst - driven by desire to pursue satisfaction & fulfillment from our relationships
 - b. **Defense:** Mechanisms we use to warp our view of reality to minimize the inevitable pain of loss & the disappointments that eventuate from pursuing life dominated by Old Sin Nature

3. **Paul uses three words for “doing” in the book of Romans and especially in Ch 7, describing the believer’s inner conflict.**
 - What I am **producing** I don’t understand – **katergazomai** (P/M/I) – **kata** + **ergazomai** - lit. energy under pressure, hammer out, produce, work out under pressure – this word is related to pressure and adversity
 - Paul uses this word to describe a product/result that comes from the mental processing occurring in the mind under some form of adversity or pressure that produces a conclusion, beliefs & behaviors.
Phil 2:12 – work out your own salvation with fear & trembling; **Eph 6:13** putting on & learning to use armor of God – having done everything – having processed knowledge of the armor in the spiritual war into wisdom, use the wisdom to stand against evil; **2Cor 7:10** godly sorrow produces repentance & zeal for God
Romans 5:3 And we also rejoice in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation **produces** perseverance....
 - Pressure of adversity → reject God or trust Him – trusting Him builds confidence to endure with Him
 - Mental process by which beliefs are exchanged resulting in new programming, divine or sinful
Rom 7:8, 13, 15, 17, 20 – impact of sin producing habits of thinking & automatic reactions to outer stimuli
 - I don’t understand what I am doing – don’t understand why I consistently keep reacting the way I do
 - Anger, self-pity, depression, discouraged, fearful, worried – knee jerk reactions to difficulties
 - b. I am not **practicing** what I desire/intend – **Prasso** – a daily routine, customary, regular behaviors Rom 2:1-3 – judging others for what you also practice; Rom 2:25 regularly follow the Law. **Desire** – **thelo** a desire and intention to do the will of God.
 - I am doing the thing I despise – **poieo** – most common word to taking any action

4. **The most difficult aspect of our sinful behavior to understand is the programmed habits of worldly thought that have become our automatic pursuits for pleasure and our defensive reactions to the difficulties of life**
 - a. We programmed our hearts with sinful images of sensual pleasure, approval from people, sense of superiority as compensation for feelings of inferiority, fear motivating attempts to control others.
 - b. Our misdirected desire and faith and the defenses we build when our misdirected schemes fail us correspond to Paul’s use of **katergazomai** – his sinful, programmed behaviors reacting to adversity
 - God has divine solutions to all spiritual problems even those the world calls mental illness

- Rom 8:1-8** – God’s solutions to the believer’s inner conflict – the absolutes of carnality & spirituality.
 - 8:1** – All condemnation was removed at salvation, even though we continue to sin in the same ways, over & over.
 - Legalism & Religion sees God still punishing people for sins that have already been paid in full
 - Think of divine discipline as punishment – divine training program that includes the carrot & the stick
 - 8:2-4** – The principle of Spirit of life **set us free** from the Law that revealed our sinfulness & spiritual death
 - When Filled with the Holy Spirit we fulfill all the requirements of the Law – in the practical sphere of righteousness
 - 8:5-8** – in the sphere of Old Sin Nature we focus our minds on the flesh – in sphere of God, the Holy Spirit we focus our minds on God, the Holy Spirit
 - When believer is yielded to Old Sin Nature, unable to obey the Lord and unable to please Him in any way

5. **The Death, Burial, and Resurrection (D,B,R) of Christ:**
 - a. **Removed the 13 judicial charges of Adam’s Original Sin, Secured forgiveness of all sins, Our position in Him:**
 - i. Has provided us the ministry of God, the Holy Spirit to secure practical victory over the complexities of our Old Sin Nature.
 - Humans are transactional by nature and incapable of conceiving of unconditional love & forgiveness.
 - God gives salvation & spirituality by grace that can’t be earned or deserved through human effort.
 - The Ministry of God, the Holy Spirit:
 - a. Confession (1n 1:9)
 - b. Yield to His enlightenment from the word (Rom 6:12-14; Eph 1:18)
 - c. Focus your mind of voice of God, the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:5-8).