

# Struggles of Life

## Lesson #17

### Romans 7:1-25

Paul had already written, *"All have sinned"* (Romans 3:23) and that *"the wages of sin is death."* (Romans 6:23) Praise God that hopelessness is not where it ends! He continued, *"But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23b) When we receive God's gift of eternal life, the expectation may be that the rest of our days will be easy, or at least free of struggles. In chapter 7, Paul gives a clear picture, through the example of his own life, of the struggles we experience when we want to live righteously and yet are still constantly frustrated by sin.

#### The Law Illustrated Through Marriage - Romans 7:1-6

1. Paul addressed his audience as those *"who know the law."* These people understood God's law and what was expected. What was Paul's first point on the law's authority? (Romans 7:1)
2. What was his illustration to clarify this relationship? (Romans 7:2)
3. Paul gave two cases using a married woman with another man. Using Romans 7:3, fill in the chart below:

	The Married Woman	Her Husband
Case #1		
Case #2		

- From these three verses, what point was Paul making with regard to the law?
4. Using verse 4:
    - What did Paul say about their current situation in relation to the law?
    - How did that take place?

- Why is that important?
  - What is the purpose?
5. Before someone comes to faith in Jesus Christ, what is the controlling “law” and its final outcome? (Romans 7:5)
  6. But now, what is different? (Romans 7:6a)
  7. What does that free us to do? (Romans 7:6b)

**The Law and Sin – Romans 7:7-25**

8. Returning to the argument with his imaginary critic, Paul posed the question, “*Is the law sin?*” He answered his question with “*certainly not!*” What did he say was the relationship between sin and the law? (Romans 7:7d)
9. What example did he use to illustrate his point? (Romans 7:7e)
10. What role did sin play in Paul’s life when he realized this was part of the law?
  - Romans 7:8
  - Romans 7:9
11. What did Paul discover through this about the law (commandments)? (Romans 7:10)
12. What was the role of sin in Paul’s life? (Romans 7:11)
13. At this point in the argument, to blame the law or to say the law is sin would seem reasonable. But what did Paul point out regarding the law? (Romans 7:12)

14. Paul asked, *"Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means!"* His explanation of sin and the law are easier to understand when read in the New Living Translation. *"Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commandments for its own evil purposes."* Romans 7:13 NLT If the law is good (or spiritual), where does the problem lie? (Romans 7:14)
15. Some of Paul's most often quoted words of encouragement come from Romans 7:15 & 16. Summarize what he said about his life.
16. Who or what is the cause of this? (Romans 7:17)
17. What did Paul have to say about his *"sinful nature?"* (Romans 7:18)
18. What was the frustrating reality in the life of Paul? (Romans 7:19)
19. Paul said, *"It is no longer I who do it, but it is \_\_\_\_\_."* (Romans 7:20)
20. Paul came to the realization that there is another law at work in his life. What was that law? (Romans 7:21)
21. What did Paul say was at the core or the innermost part of his being? (Romans 7:22)
22. How did he describe his inner life? (Romans 7:23)
23. How did Paul express his feelings about the situation? (Romans 7:24a)

24. In anguish, what question did he raise? (Romans 7:24b)

25. What was his answer? (Romans 7:25a)

Paul concluded this section with these words, *"So you see how it is: in my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin."* Romans 7:25b NLT

**Think About It!**

26. Paul wrote openly about the struggles he faced even as an apostle years after giving his life to Christ. In chapter 8, he will write how we as believers are able to overcome the powerful pull of sin and our own sin nature. Do these struggles of Paul bring you encouragement? Why or why not?