

The Main Point. The human experience is that when someone tells us "NO or you MUST do this!" there is a part of us that says, "Hell will have to freeze over before I'll let you tell me what to do." As a Christian we say to ourselves, "Why am I that way? I don't want to be that way, especially when I know the word to me was right and good." The revelation of God's Word is that "sin" -- this rebellious attitude -- is an alien personage -- a counterfeit that masquerades as us in us. It attached itself to our soul at conception and will be detached only by being killed by Christ. We are powerless but He is all powerful on our behalf.

Overview

- 1-V1-4** The law applies only to a person who is still _____ . From God's point of view, the old self of the Christian is dead. The law no longer holds you in its _____ because you died to its power when you died with Christ on the _____."
- 2-V4** United with Jesus who was raised from the _____ -- focused on Him— and having the power of the Holy Spirit in us, we can produce good _____, good _____.
- 3-V5** The do's and don'ts of the law put the focus back on us—it kicks in our _____ nature – arouses its _____ desires and produces contaminated, sinful _____ which bring _____ - poisoning just about everything we do.
- 4-V6** "Now we can really _____ God, not in the old way by obeying the letter of the law but in the new way, by the _____."
- 5-V7** But it is not that the law of God –which tells us how everything in the creation works- is _____. In fact, the law shows us our _____. Now we can know why our human wisdom and efforts don't work, why we are miserable, and why we are doomed to die. The law arouses all kinds of _____ desires. It exposes our rebelliousness—our determination to have our way.
- 6-V9-10** We feel _____ as long as no one confronts us with what we are doing wrong although it is bringing slow death to our lives. Paul says, "The _____ law which was supposed to show me the way of _____, instead gave me the death penalty.
- 7-V11-12** The problem is not with the law which is _____ and _____ and good. It is the alien, cancerous presence of _____ which takes advantage of the _____ and fools us. Instead of experiencing the freedom sin promises, we get killed.
- 8-V14** The culprits in human mess and misery are (1) US (our old nature that plays God) and (2) SIN which infects every human soul. Together they form an unholy alliance which ends with sin being our _____.
- 9-V15-17** I (the spiritual man created in God's image and restored by Christ) don't _____ myself at all, for I really _____ to do what is right but I don't do it. Instead I do the very thing I hate. I can't _____ myself, because it is sin _____ me that _____ me do these evil things."
- 10-V22** There are two laws – sets of right and wrong -- at work within us. There is: (1) God's law and there is _____ law (our own set of rules about good and evil). They are at war in our _____. The reasonable mind is the battlefield.
- 11-V23** Because there is always a part of us that "wants our own way" (our own set of rules), the cancer of _____ makes us a slave to itself.
- 12-V24** There are moments looking over our lives when we realize that we are _____ because-- in spite of our best efforts to do it God's way, we end up with a life _____ by sin and we cry out "_____ will save me?"

13-V25 _____ God! There is an answer. It is _____, our Lord. He took sin to the cross and killed it. In my _____ nature I am a _____ to sin but the good news is that I don't have to be if I will choose to become one with Him.

Word Study

- AROUSES • LAW • SIN • DOMINATED • CAN'T
- THE SPIRIT • LIVING • OLD • I •

1. V1-3 _____ Paul's point here is that the law can only apply to living people. We (the doing what comes natural self) are not "still living" when we are united with Christ. Therefore, we neither break or keep the laws of this world—including the Law of Moses. A woman or man whose spouse has died is free to remarry. Anyone who invites Christ into His life, spiritually speaking, participates in Christ's death on the cross. (This is a miracle of God.) Therefore, he or she is dead to the laws of this present world and he or she cannot be judged as a lawbreaker or suffer the consequences of lawbreaking.

2.V5 _____ Sometimes called the OLD MAN or THE NATURAL MAN or the SIN MAN. This is **NOT** the REAL ME. This is a corrupted counterfeit of the human inner person. We have lived with it from birth so we think it's the "real me."

3.V5 /8 _____ The Law which says "THOU SHALT NOT" reminds the sin person in us of what we are missing. It also arouses rebellion in us. "No one is going to tell me what to do!" "No one has the right to judge my behavior and make me feel guilty." So evil desires and forbidden desires rise up and even if we fight them, we can't win.

4.V. 6 _____ A fresh wind. The Greek word is PNEUMA which means wind, current of air, breeze. This is the typical way God is now present and working on the earth. The Holy Spirit indwells and sustains the movement and the life of planets and people. The Holy Spirit also lives within the human spirit. SIN is an alien (not us) spiritual force indwelling and permeating the spirit (inner man/ heart) of every person born on this earth. The Holy Spirit comes in and CROWDS OUT the SIN SPIRIT.

5.V12 _____ The laws of God and the laws of governments based on the same principles of right and wrong – helpful or harmful -- are necessary in this world. Laws restrain evil doing. Trying to keep laws proves that we sin. The inability to keep God's laws causes us to seek Jesus for salvation.

6.V 16 _____ This is the voice of our spirit made in the image of God. It is the voice of the REAL ME. The lust and compulsion to do bad things is the voice of the FALSE ME -- the sin nature.

7.V18 _____ The fact of life without Christ in it is that we can't be good. We are helpless in the hands of a greater power than our will. I can't be good and godly but He (Jesus) can. And when I am united with Him, I CAN. There is an exhortation, "I can't, He can't, Why not let Him?"

8.V20 _____ This is an alien spiritual-like presence that indwells and controls all people born on this world. It is a counterfeit of the spiritual man made in God's image. It is like a cancer cell which is a counterfeit of a healthy cell and is not recognized by the body as an enemy. The thing to remember is that SIN is NOT the real ME.

9.V24 _____ This is the experience that we can't get something off our back. The exact wording is BODY OF DEATH. The practice of the Roman army was that when someone ran from battle or deliberately killed an innocent person, the CORPSE would be tied to their naked back to carry around. Eventually the rotting body would eat into the back and the vitals of the living coward or killer and he would die.

What does this Scripture say to you?
