

The Civil War of the Inner Man

(Romans 7)

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

- A. In *Romans 7*, the Spirit of God establishes that the only way for sinners to acceptably serve their new Master is to get out from under the law, which demands flawless perfection.
- B. As long as sinners are bound under the iron rule of law, perfect obedience is required.
- C. The solution? The only solution is to die to the law.

I. The law is binding on a person only as long as he lives (7:1-6)

- A. Paul starts with a legal principle that everyone can understand and no one can argue with.
- B. As an example, he offers an illustration — the law of marriage.
- C. *“Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ...”*

II. If it is true that we must die to the law, how should we look at the law? (7:7-14)

- A. *“If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin.”*
- B. My transgression of the law gives sin its power and ability to inflict death.
- C. Paul was not born spiritually dead (7:9).
- D. Sin deceives us (7:11).
- E. The law succeeded in showing how deceptive and powerful the harsh master of sin is.

III. The civil war of the inner man (7:15-25)

- A. It is not that Paul is incapable of doing or thinking anything good (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- B. *“I am being used by sin, and there is no one to blame but myself.”*
- C. *“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*