



CONTEXT AND CLARIFICATION

“I have not arrived.” As believers, we understand that on this side of heaven, we will never “arrive.” Until we see Jesus Christ face to face, we will be tempted with sin, we will struggle with the flesh, yet thanks be to God we have a new desire from His Spirit to pursue the things of God. In this passage, we see the Apostle Paul talking about his internal struggle with sin.

Ray Stedman wrote, *“There are teachers who teach that this passage in Romans 7 is something a Christian goes through but once. Then he gets out of it and moves into Romans 8, never to return to Romans 7 again. Nothing could be further from the truth! Even as mighty a man as Paul went through it again and again. This is a description of what every believer will go through many times in his experience because sin has the power to deceive us and to cause us to trust in ourselves, even when we are not aware we are doing so.”*

This quote explains that wrestling with the two natures is not only something for new Christians, but for mature Christians as well. This is not a constant state of falling into sin and living in sin, because we are free from the law, and we are dead to sin. However, no matter the spiritual maturity and depth of a believer, there should be a constant awareness of the sin that dwells within.



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Optional Ice Breaker: Who will you invite to Easter this week, or who have you invited recently?

- 1) Read Romans 7:14-25. What was one of your biggest takeaways from the sermon?
- 2) Paul shared his internal struggle with sin. How have other Christians’ authenticity and transparency encouraged you before? How can you personally grow in authenticity and transparency as a Christian?
- 3) Read John 8:11 & Matthew 5:48. What do these verses mean and are they impossible to live out? What are sins that even spiritually mature Christians struggle with?
- 4) Our culture has shifted its focus to self-help and self-love. How have these counterfeit “tools” become detrimental and harmful to spiritual growth? What are some wrong ways you have attempted to fix yourself without the Holy Spirit?
- 5) What uncomfortable things has the Holy Spirit led you to do recently for God’s glory? What things has the Holy Spirit recently given you the strength to avoid?
- 6) How do you react and respond when you don’t do the things you should do? What do you do when you see sin within you and are disgusted with it? What do you do when you see sin within you, and you *don’t* seem to hate it?
- 7) As a Christian, when have your choices left you saying to yourself, “This isn’t who I’m supposed to be!” What brought you to that realization? How did God lead you to repentance?



FURTHER STUDY

1 John 1:5-10 (NIV)

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.



Galatians 5:13-18 (NIV)

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

John 3:6 (NIV)

⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

Colossians 2:11 (NIV)

¹¹In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ.

“The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because he knows it grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), because it dishonors God (1 Cor. 6:19-20), because sin keeps his prayers from being answered (1 Pet. 3:12), and because sin makes his life spiritually powerless (1 Cor. 9:27). The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because it causes good things from God to be withheld (Jer. 5:25), because it robs him of the joy of salvation (Ps. 51:12), because it inhibits spiritual growth (1 Cor. 3:1), because it brings chastisement from the Lord (Heb. 12:7), and because it prevents his being a fit vessel for the Lord to use (2 Tim. 2:21). The spiritual believer is sensitive to sin because it pollutes Christian fellowship (1 Cor. 10:21), because it prevents participating properly in the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:28-29), and because it can even endanger his physical life and health (1 Cor. 11:30; 1 John 5:16).” —**John MacArthur**



THEOLOGY SHOULD LEAD TO DOXOLOGY

Use these songs in your own personal quiet time as you reflect on Romans 7:14-25.

- I Need Thee Every Hour [Hymn]
- Breathe On Me, Breath Of God [Hymn]
- Overwhelmed [Big Daddy Weave]

