The Conflict between the flesh and the law of sin. 7:23-25

The root of the problem, the cause of our constant defeat by sin: our own carnal mind, the “**body of this death**” (verse 24).

*O wretched man that I am! who shall* ***deliver*** *me from the body of this death?*

There is an ancient custom of certain tyrants, who bound a dead body to a living man, and made him to carry the dead body, until it took away his life!”

Paul painted a startling picture in order to awaken his readers to the reality of the gruesomeness of sin.

Why professing christians struggle so in the flesh.

* They don’t understand what the law of God is doing for them (pointing them to Christ)
* nor what the law of sin is doing to them. (Blinding them from Christ)

**The difference is between professors and Possessors**

**The Battle Within**

Romans 7:23—*But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

**The Battle is Won or Lost in the Mind**

1. The battle for the mind
   1. The devil is after your mind
      1. *“warring against the law of my mind”*
      2. We can’t win on our own we are in captivity to the law of sin without Christ.
         1. The Devil attacked Eve’s mind—Eve lost
         2. The Devil attacked Christ’s mind—Christ won
   2. The devil is making prisoners
      1. *“bringing me into captivity”*
      2. Without Jesus Christ all men are taken captive
         1. The devil takes advantage of you as you sin.
         2. The devil can’t resist the Grace of God In your life.
   3. The devil battles through a sinful nature
      1. “*the law of sin which is in my members”*
      2. *You can’t stop your sinning on your own.*
         1. The devil is judged by the laws of God.
         2. The works of the devil are destroyed by the Grace of God.

Romans 7:24—*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

**The Body of this Death is our own corrupt self**

1. Flesh is wretched without a deliverer
   1. “*O wretched man that I am”*
      1. The Carnal Nature is as leaven
      2. The old Nature is a Rebel
      3. The self life is a tyrant
         1. An evil snare
            1. Enslaving and destroying
         2. A Heavy weight
            1. Laboring , wandering and Wallowing in sin

Romans 7:25—*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

* 1. “*who shall deliver me”*
     1. The Character of the Body of this death
        1. Dead, Selfish, Wretched and unregenerate.
     2. The Course of the self life
        1. Discourage, deceive and destroy.
     3. The Cure of the self life
        1. Must come to the realization you need deliverance and salvation.
        2. Must realize you can’t deliver, nor save yourself.

The law can’t save you.

* + - 1. Only Jesus can save a soul from sin and deliver from carnality.
         1. Delivered from sin unto Victorious living
         2. Only by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost
         3. Walking after the Spirit.

Romans 7:7-25 Why do God’s laws arouse our sinful desires?

Because sin in us seizes the opportunity and becomes:

**A sharpshooter**, picking the best times and places for a kill **A fowler** setting small snares

**A temptress**, working seduction at the point of a weakness **A lawyer**, trapping a victim in his own arguments

**An engineer**, building elaborate traps **A magnet**, creating an attraction as the object comes near

**An army**, occupying undefended areas in our morality **A guerrilla**, instigating rebellion behind the scenes

Ro 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Beyond this weak condition of the flesh under the influence of sin is the promise of deliverance through Jesus Christ with the Holy Ghost dwelling and walking in us.

Ro 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. {to be carnally...: Gr. the minding of the flesh} {to be spiritually...: Gr. the minding of the Spirit}

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 **But** ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

1Co 3:16 ¶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, **I will dwell in them, and walk in them**; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2Co 7:1 ¶ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

Ga 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Pr 14:30 ¶ A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

1Pe 4:6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Joe 2:28 ¶ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: Ac 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

**“God was manifest in the flesh”**

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

**The Creator of the universe wants to dwell in us and manifest Himself to the world through us**

**2Co 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.**

**The world needs to see God dwelling in us.**

**The world needs to see the life of Jesus in the believer.**

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

The life is the manifestation, revealing the nature of God, Righteousness and true Holiness.

John 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, **and I in you**.

2Co 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.** 11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that **the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.**

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Heb 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

1John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Humanity (flesh) without Christ is corrupt The Human body (flesh) is a fallen creature

God has an Eternal purpose to make us see from His point of view.

**Flesh and Spirit**

**But not sinful flesh(mind), nor carnal flesh(mind)**

**Le 8:11** And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, **both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.**

**John 1:14** And the Word was made **flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. **Ro 1:3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; **Ro 8:3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 ¶ And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

**Ro 8:13** For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

**Ro 8:23** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

**Ro 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (II Peter 1:4-11)

Mt 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Mt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mr 10:8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. Mr 13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. Mr 14:38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Lu 3:6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Lu 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Ge 2:21 ¶ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

**Job 11:7** ¶ Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

Ro 11:33 ¶ O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Job 11:13 ¶ If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him; 14 If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. 15 For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear:

Ps 63:1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. 84:2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. 88:9 Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee. 143:6 I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah. 145:21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Pr 4:22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Joe 2:28 ¶ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: Ac 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Ro 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

2Co 4:11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

2Co 5:16 ¶ Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2Co 7:1 ¶ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the **flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**2Co 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

Ga 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Col 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:

Col 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Job 19:26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Heb 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Heb 2:14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Heb 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Heb 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Heb 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

1Pe 3:18 ¶ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 4:1 ¶ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

1Jo 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2Jo 1:7 ¶ For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

The Conflict between the Law and the Sinner

Romans 7:14 For we know that the **law is spiritual**: but **I am carnal, sold under sin**. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, **I consent unto the law that it is good.**

17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but **how to perform that which is good I find not.** 19 For the good that I would **I do not**: but the evil which I would not, **that I do.** 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but **sin that dwelleth in me.** 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to **the law of sin which is in my members.**

24 **O wretched man that I am!** who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

1. **Who is the Apostle addressing?**

Romans 7:14 For we know that the **law is spiritual**:

1. Those who are enlightened to the knowledge of the law.

**16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.** 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

1. Those who are unsaved and still under the law.

Romans 7:14 For we know that...: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

* The Law reveals the true condition of the soul, undone.
* The Promise reveals the true condition of the saved.

6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

1. **What does He say of them?**

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but **I am carnal, sold under sin.** 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

1. They approve the Law
2. Yet they serve sin – Law has not the power to deliver.
   1. (sin is a universal, incurable corruption)
   2. Redemption is a work of Grace.

6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but **under grace.**

1. **The Necessary Conclusion.**
2. There is no deliverance by Law.

Acts 13:39 …ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Rom. 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Gal. 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ… 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

1. Deliverance is in Christ.

Romans 7:25 **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord**. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

1. There is no deliverance without the satisfying of the law which is a revelation of His Holiness.

Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. 9:30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

1John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

1John 2:29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him

Living and doing right is the proof that you have been born again

Eph 2:10 Titus 1:16

The Law that makes men free No Condemnation now.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation **to them which are in Christ Jesus**, who **walk** not after the flesh, but **after the Spirit.**

A Greater law cancels a lesser law. Under the law of sin all men are condemned In Jesus Christ all true believers are free. The law of the Spirit is a Higher Law

2 For the **law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus hath **made me free** from the law of sin and death.

The weakness of the law of sin

Romans 7:10; 8:3-8

No wrong with the law of God, (7:10)–ordained to life, 12-Holy, just and good 14-spiritual

The weakness is in the flesh.

Re 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that **thou art wretched**, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.