

# Romans 7- A Christian's Ongoing Struggle with Sin

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Problem: SIN, not you

(Romans 8-Solution: Jesus, not law, and just trying to be good)

Portion of Letter from a professing Christian:

“I’m an agnostic. Not that I don’t sin, but I try not to.

I believe I live a moral life far more moral than Donald Trump yet he is going to heaven if you believe the Evangelicals.

Why should people who believe in salvation through the death of Jesus get a pass when agnostics who are just confused but live a good life are not saved?

I don’t worry about death or god or these issues. I feel totally at peace without any personal anxiety. I don’t need to change my views and certainly doubt I ever will.”

LAW, trying to be good: Wrong way to Life Change.

Wanting won’t get you anywhere

**Presenting** (baptism) See Romans 12:1

Many skip from Chapter 6 to 8 and wonder why no life change.

**The importance of chapter 7 cannot be over emphasized.**

**Critical:** Christians need to know we cannot live the Christian life on our own. We cannot do it ourselves.

We must let God do for us what we **cannot** do for ourselves.

Many Christians go to the Mosaic law to try to find Christian Living.

Produces condemnation. Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Totally different approach to life.

The law condemns you to die. It was designed by God to expose sin and demonstrate the law: “The wages of sin is death.”

Now let’s look at Romans 7:

**Romans 7:1-3 Paul is not talking about marriage and divorce here.**

Rather: If one dies, the other is free.

(Mosaic law: unfaithful is stoned)

We cannot do that today!!!!!!

**Romans 7:4-5 Christ’s death freed us from law; now married to Christ.**

Law was a straitjacket to control sin.

Ministry of condemnation.

Acts 7:53-Stephen: “Have not kept it” Peter: “Unable to bear” Acts 15:10

Story: 1800s ridiculous illustration...

Rich man married beautiful woman. He died suddenly. She loved him dearly; embalmed body in chair inside front entrance in airtight glass case. Friends urged her vacation abroad. Two years fell in love, married, honeymoon came to visit old home. He carried bride over threshold. Staring into face of man in glass case. "Who is that?" She had forgotten. Both decided time to bury him. (No longer married to Law, we are married to Christ.)

### **Romans 7:6-Christ's heart, not ours**

Anonymous ancient poem nails it:

"I do not work my soul to save  
That work my Lord has done  
But I will work like any slave  
For love of God's dear Son."

John 21:17 - Jesus asked Peter, "do you love me?" We serve Christ because we love Him. But we can't love Him on our own. The Christian life is Christ living His life through us today. We cannot do it ourselves; we cannot do it by the law. The law is not at fault, the problem is sin; human nature makes us weak. Jesus Christ makes us strong.

**Romans 7:7-11** Before conversion we did not see sin and thought we were basically good people compared to others. Sin deceived us.

\*Example: Conversion like new car in hands of incapable driver. Problem not the car. Needs new driver- Jesus.

Sin makes you think you can keep the law with good intentions as many professing Christians think.

**Romans 7:12-18** - Human mind is carnal, dominated by Satanic nature and hostile towards God. (See 8:7)

We all, like Paul, have that constant struggle with the sin nature till we die.

**Romans 7:19-23 - Problem: sin nature, NOT YOU. New nature desires God, but struggles); (like new car) can't w/o JESUS driving.**

**Romans 7:24** Every child of God must admit evil is present in every moment, otherwise headed for spiritual disaster.

**Romans 7:25-Who deliver? Jesus only. Romans 8 Delightful Details next week.**