

## *Studies In Romans*

### **(Romans 7:15-25)**

#### 1. Can sin cause someone to do things they'd otherwise hate?

Yes: *"(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"* (Romans 7:15-17).

- These verses APPEAR to be speaking of the battle within between the carnal mind and the spiritual mind, which we will discuss later in this context (**Romans 7:21-23; 25**).
- We do know that Paul is NOT saying we cannot control ourselves (**Proverbs 25:28, Romans 12:1-2, I Corinthians 9:25-27, I Thessalonians 5:22, Titus 2:11-12, and II Peter 1:3-10**).
- Those things which godly people hate are sinful things (**Psalms 97:10, Psalms 101:3, Psalms 119:104, Psalms 119:163, Proverbs 13:5, Romans 12:9, and Hebrews 1:8-9**).
- Plainly put, when sin is in us we are going to do things which we really do not want to do (**Proverbs 21:10**).
- Commentary on how sin in us can cause us to do more and more evil is found earlier in this epistle (**Romans 1:28-32**).

#### 2. If a person is thinking in a carnal [fleshly] way, will they find how to do what is good?

No: *"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"* (Romans 7:18).

- Carnality does not bring about good things (**Titus 3:3 and I John 2:15-17**).
- This is why you have to change the way you think to be faithful (**Isaiah 55:7-9, Romans 12:1-3, Romans 13:13-14, and II Corinthians 10:3-5**).
- When you are fleshly, you cannot do what is right (**Galatians 5:17**).

#### 3. When a person continues to do things they know they should not do, what is dwelling in them?

Sin: *"(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"* (Romans 7:19-20).

- Sin should not dwell in us (**Romans 6:6**).
- The conflict presented is the one who wants to do right, but sin is gaining the advantage (**Matthew 26:41 and James 1:13-16**).
- Again, as we'll see in the next chapter (**Romans 8:4-8**), fleshly minds cannot do what is right!

4. Is there a battle that occurs in man?

Yes: *“(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” (Romans 7:21-23).*

- **Romans 7:5, Galatians 5:16-25, and I Peter 2:11.**
- There is a difference between the inward [spiritual] and outward [carnal] man (**II Corinthians 4:16**)
- Delighting in the law of God after the inward man (**Psalms 1:1-2, Psalms 19:8-10, Psalms 119:16, Psalms 119:47-48, and Psalms 119:97-104**).
- In captivity to sin (**Acts 8:23 and II Timothy 2:26**).

5. What question did Paul ask in regard to the “wretched” man?

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

- For one, we should know that Paul is not calling himself a wretched man (**Acts 24:16, I Corinthians 11:1, II Corinthians 1:12, I Thessalonians 2:10, II Thessalonians 3:7, and II Timothy 4:6-8**).
- Contextually, Paul was speaking of a man who is carnal in mind, driven by a carnal law.
- When you read the next verse (**Romans 7:25**) you see that Paul thanks God through Christ for deliverance. It is Christ who delivers us from the body of carnal death (**Galatians 1:3-4, II Timothy 4:18, Titus 2:13-14, and Hebrews 2:9-15**).
- That does not mean that we do not have our part in being delivered from the body of sin and death (**Acts 26:18-20, II Corinthians 7:1, and II Timothy 2:19**).

6. What contrast does this chapter conclude with?

The spiritual mind vs. the flesh: *“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” (Romans 7:25).*

- Thanks to God through Jesus (**Ephesians 5:20 and Colossians 3:17**).
- Thanks for going from serving sin to being delivered (**Romans 6:17**).
- This chapter closes with emphasizing how the mind will serve God, but the flesh will turn to sin (**Mark 14:38**).
- This will tie in to the weakness of the carnal Law of Moses and the strength of the spiritual mind we gain through Christ (**Romans 8:3**).