

Building C
Romans 7:14-25
03-10-2019

The Conflict is real and its really hard.

Phillipians 1:6 - *Be confident of this, Christ who began a good work in you and will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Romans 7

⁷ What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

⁸ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.

⁹ I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died.

The First Lament

The Condition -

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

The Proof -

15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

The Source -

16 But if I do the very thing I do not want *to do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

The Second Lament

The Condition -

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh;

The Proof -

for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

The Source -

20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

The Third Lament

The Condition -

21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

The Proof -

22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind

The Source -

making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

The Final Lament

24Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Paul is reminding us of this desire that he has and we should have of heaven. “We ourselves,” Paul says, “having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:23; cf. 2 Cor. 5:4). On that great day, even our corruptible bodies will be redeemed and made incorruptible. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,” Paul assures us, “the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.... The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:52–53, 56–57).

Signs you're losing the Battle

How does compromise start? Sometimes it begins intentionally. You know you're cheating. You know you're lying. You took the bait. But often, compromise doesn't begin that way. It happens more subtly.

As Paul admitted, the struggle has an innate quality to it. Compromise is in you, and life brings it out of you. You're surrounded by people who compromise, who have made a hundred little concessions. It's not hard to drift. It's not difficult to give in. Go with the flow, and before you know it, you've crossed the line.

So what are some telltale signs you're drifting, that you're not becoming who you intend to be? Here are five.

1. There's a Growing Gap Between Your Public Life and Private Life

Your character is compromised when you can no longer tell the world the truth.

2. You're Hiding Things

As the gap grows between your real self and the projection of your false self, you won't want anyone to discover the truth about you.

3. You Fail to Follow Through on What You've Said

Another sign of compromise is when you commit to things that you never end up doing.

4. You Justify Your Bad Actions and Decisions

There's a certain point when you compromise regularly enough that you decide to stop apologizing and instead start justifying.

5. Your Life Has Become All About You

When you keep compromising, eventually you craft a life that is almost entirely self-centered.

I want us to know that there is hope

There is still time to turn this around

Get Ridiculously honest with yourself and God

“James 3:13–18”

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Never Lose Your Gratitude

“So how do you make sure you never lose your gratitude? First, express your thankfulness regularly. When you pray, offer prayers of gratitude. Second, fall more in love with the Giver than you ever do with his gifts.

Third, never claim full credit for your story. Acknowledge the role of grace and providence publicly when you talk.

What are you grateful for? Here's a better question: What should you be grateful for?"

Take the Low Place

Proud leaders enjoy titles, bigger offices, and the praise and perks that come with a position. The proud take the high place. They always want something better and more.

The humble, by contrast, take the low place, intent on serving rather than being served.

Push other people into the spotlight

Pride wants to be acknowledged, recognized, and celebrated.

Pride pushes gifted people out of your life.

Pride compels you to have a say in everything.

Humility willingly pushes other people into the spotlight. It's never jealous. It delights in the success of others. In fact, sometimes humble people even enjoy others' success more than their own success. "

Romans 12:9-13

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.