The Conflict of Two Natures

(Intentional vs Unintentional sin)

Romans 7:14-20 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage (a Slave) to sin. 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. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. **So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.** For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 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.

A few Key points

● There are two natures within us, the sin nature that everyone is born with, and the new nature you receive when you accept Christ Jesus.

● There is a war waging within us every day, and it is for the control of our souls. (mind, emotions and will).

This is one reason why I truly believe there is a God. If there was no God (Good) and no enemy (evil) then it should be easy to decide to do what is right and just do it. But instead whenever I make a conscious decision to do what is right it seems like a war breaks out inside me to move me in the opposite direction.

For example: As soon as you decide not to lie any more every opportunity will come up for you to have to lie to someone. If you decide not to have anger in your heart, every stupid person and /or situation in the world is going to show up at your door. The enemy hates when we try to do the right thing and sure enough when you make those decisions, he will be right there to ensure you will not be successful. But there is a specific life that Jesus die for us to have. A victorious life. Surely there will be trials and tribulations, that's a given. However, we can live above the mess that this world brings when we use the Word & spirit of God in our battles.

John 6:63 “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”

But it is not always about our action. The enemy wages war with our thoughts as well. The Bible tells us to Guard our thoughts.

An Example may be: You are watching something on TV, Movie, or on the computer and the Holy Spirit will put the thought in you that you shouldn't be watching this. do you reason with yourself that it's really not that bad and since you’re a Christian, you won't be affected by it?

2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us that we are to Cast down everything that exalts itself against the father and Capture every thought and make it obedient to Christ.

So what are we to think about:

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Now we do need to understand that there is a difference between the unintentional sin that pops into your mind and catches you off guard and the Sin that you make a conscious decision to act on. The unintentional sin is sin but it was not your conscious decision to put it in your mind. As the verse say “I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me”. It is at the point where we make a conscious decision to act on it that it becomes intentional Sin.

An example: We see someone dressed inappropriately and start to think bad thoughts but catch it, turn our heads and move on. Vs. We see the person, keep staring and knowing that it is wrong we let our thoughts and actions runaway.

We can see the difference between intentional and unintentional sin, in the Old Testament, if we take a look at the Israelite’s sin offering. A Sin Offering could only be offered for unintentional sins committed through carelessness but not for intentional malicious sins.

Numbers 15:27-31 “**But if just one person sins unintentionally**, that person must bring a year-old female goat for a sin offering. The priest is to make atonement before the Lord for the one who erred by **sinning unintentionally**, and when atonement has been made, that person will be forgiven... “‘**But anyone who sins defiantly**, whether native-born or foreigner, he blasphemes the Lord and must be cut off from the people of Israel. Because they have despised the Lord’s word and broken his commands, they must surely be cut off; their guilt remains on them.’”

Intentional sin is being defiant against God; it knows that something is wrong but **wanting** to do it anyway. Intentional Sin is usually planned out where unintentional is something that just happens.

# Hebrews 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

If we have intentional sin in our lives this is a much bigger issue, and we need to take it before God and ask him to remove these desires from our life. This is not what Paul is talking about in this verse and a topic for another discussion.

Notice Paul says “I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate”. Many times you will find yourself thinking or doing something you had no intention to do. You did not mean to do it, you can’t believe it happened and you hate the very thought that you did it. This verse is saying that we should not beat ourselves up because God knows this was not our intension but a trick from the enemy to try and get us to intentionally sin.

let’s continue in Romans 7:21-22 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my flesh another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my flesh. **Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

This is a constant war that goes on inside each of us. It never goes away and if we give the enemy a foothold it can be overwhelming. We want to follow God but we are drawn away to follow the world. We know we can’t follow both as Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:24, 'No one can serve two masters.'

* **So we can’t serve both God and the flesh so what do we do?**

Romans 8:1-3, 4 There is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. … 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

The answer is Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection have provided forgiveness to those who walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. So the key point is we need to walk in the spirit.

**What does it mean to walk in the Flesh?**

Living in the flesh is living your life for you, setting your own rules, doing what you want. (Romans 8:4-8)

Galatians 5:19-21 (Common English) The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry, jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won’t inherit God’s kingdom.

Sin has consequences and being saved does not automatically give you a fee pass from your actions. Paul wrote: 'Don't be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap.' (Galatians 6:7).

**How do we walk in the Spirit?**

Living in the spirit is living your life for God, Following his will, doing what he calls you to do.

# Galatians 5:22-23  But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

# We need to put aside our desires for those things God calls us to do. Many people will not come to Christ because they are afraid of losing who they are but that is exactly what God calls us to do. It says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that we are to become a new person in Christ.

# So the question becomes are you willing to except Christ calling to be made new? I admit it is not an easy decision but the great part of making this decision is we don’t have to do it alone. If we except Christ he will change us from the inside. We just have to be willing. I have seen Christ make changes in me that I never though could happen. It has taken years and God will continue to change me. He promises to do the same for you

# Philippians 1:6 Be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

# Let Jesus Change your life! You will never regret it for all eternity