

SANCTIFIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 7:21-8:14 KJV (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 G497; *to attack*. It is the idea of carrying out a campaign of war against another. This is the only place that this word is used in the New Testament. It is in the present tense which indicates a continuous action. Its voice is middle or passive deponent meaning that the believer has no active part in this. The passive indicates that he or she is acted upon, and the middle is stating that he or she is acting upon himself or herself. **against the law of my mind**, G3563, *the intellect*. The place of reasoning and understanding. Comparable to the heart. The higher part of the soul. **and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members**. The new creature that we are in Christ possesses the Holy Spirit. This part of our being agrees that the Law of God is good. He desires to do the will of God, because God is his or her master (Romans 6:15-23). In fact this new man in Christ cannot sin. *1 John 3:9 KJV Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God*. However, this new creature still dwells in a body that still desires to serve sin. So, the child of God lives in a continual struggle between two natures. The born-again man desiring to do the Law of God, and the members of the body that he or she dwells in desiring to serve the law of sin. The sinful members are continually waging war against the mind of the child of God trying to entice him or her to yield the members of their body to sin. *Romans 6:12-13 KJV Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (13) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God*. Here we see how the whole of our being operates as a true child of God. The body is still totally subject to the law of sin. The spirit is totally subject to the Law of God. The soul is caught in the middle as the law of the mind is constantly under attack to yield to the demands of the flesh. This is an awful dilemma and the reason for Paul's plea in the next verse. **(24) O wretched** G 5005; *enduring a trial, miserable. man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?* The *body of this death* is different from the *body of sin* in Romans 6:6. The *body of sin* describes us in our lost condition when we could do nothing but serve sin totally and completely. However, *the body of this death* refers to this human body that is still subject to sin that we as believers now occupy. Our human body is dead to God and headed to death because of sin and it hinders us from being fully all that we are and will be in Christ. All Christians long for the day when the effects of sin will no longer be a factor in their lives. **(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.** Paul's praise is turned to the Lord Jesus Christ because it is through Him that we have been and one day will experience completely freedom from this body of death. **(8:1) There is therefore** In light of the fact that all believers are in the same dilemma that Paul has just described in 7:14-25; that we have two natures at work in our beings, one serving God and the other serving the flesh. **now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus**, Because we are in Christ Jesus, God has not even one guilty verdict against us! A-men!! **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. This last phrase is only in the majority text and therefore not found in most Bible translations. Sadly, even among of the best Bible teachers and preachers that I have listened to or read want to dismiss it from verse 1, claiming that some scribe put it there by mistake. They say he took it from verse 4, where it rightfully belongs; but I don't buy it. I don't think that God would have had believers reading the wrong text for 1900 years; and this phrase here seems to naturally introduces verse 2. So, I'm not going to dismiss it. I used to read this as referring to something that was my responsibility. That if I was obedient to the Spirit then I wasn't condemned by God; but if I was disobedient to the Spirit by yielding to the flesh, then I was condemned. From that point of view, I was glad when I first heard that this phrase didn't belong here because the verse then stops at no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, with no responsibility on my part. However,

that was a misunderstanding of the text. The phrase *who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit* isn't speaking of behavior, but birth. It refers to our position in Christ, not our experience. Those of us who are in Christ Jesus do walk after (or according to) the Spirit, not the flesh. **(2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.** Now we are introduced to another law. This law supersedes all other laws. It is the law of the Spirit of life and it is only available to those who are in Christ Jesus. This law has set the born-again believer free from the law of sin and death (Romans 6:1-14). **(3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh,** The weak flesh of man is the problem with being sanctified by the Law of God. God's Law is good and perfect (Romans 7:12). However, the flesh is sinful and totally unable to keep God's Law. (Romans 7:14-18). **God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:** Jesus Christ took care of that problem for us. He, the sinless Son of God, came in the likeness of human flesh, to deal with the problem of sin in man, and Jesus Christ condemned sin in the flesh for us. Therefore, those of us in Christ are not condemned. **(4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.** So, sanctification can't come through any human effort to keep the Law of God, for we are incapable of doing so. Sanctification only comes through the Holy Spirit identifying us with Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4). The Holy Spirit enters us, regenerates us (born-again), baptizes us into the body of Christ, identifying us with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ we are dead to sin and alive to God. Jesus Christ has died to sin once and for all and has eternal life, and in Christ so have we. In Christ, by the Holy Spirit we have been forever moved from the realm of sin that made us servants to sin into the realm of grace that makes us servants to righteousness. Forever, we as new creatures in Christ walk according to the Spirit instead of the flesh. We have been eternally moved from being subject to the flesh to being subject to 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.** **(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.** Some teach these verses to apply to the born-again believer. They assert that the child of God has the choice to walk according to the Spirit, or according to the flesh. Again, looking at this from that point of view creates some difficulties. It makes the text appear to indicate that sanctification is a matter of works instead of grace. That idea isn't true. We learned in Romans 6:1-14 that it is an impossibility for us to live in the realm of sin anymore because we have been permanently moved from sin to grace. We also learned that it is impossible for us to desire to purposely commit acts of sin anymore because we have been permanently connected to a new master, we serve the Lord Jesus now instead of sin (Romans 6:15-23). Likewise, here we learn that we have been permanently disconnected from the flesh and permanently connected to the Holy Spirit. These verses teach that those in the flesh cannot please God. *Romans 3:23 KJV (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* *Romans 6:20 KJV (20) For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.* *Romans 7:5 KJV (5) For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.* However, born-again believers are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, because the Spirit of God dwells in them. If you do not possess the Holy Spirit then you do not belong to God. **(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.** As born-again believers, our spirit is alive because of the Spirit of Christ Who dwells in us even though our bodies are dead because of sin. That same Holy Spirit Who dwells in us is the same Holy Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead and He will give life to our mortal bodies someday in the resurrection just as He did to Jesus Christ. The word translated *dwell* means *to occupy a house*. The word

translated *dwelleth* means *to inhabit*. It has the idea to be at home. The Holy Spirit not only occupies our spirit, but it will forever be His home. **(12) Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. (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.** In light of what the Holy Spirit has done for us, regenerating us, justifying us, sanctifying us, and promising us future glorification in the resurrection, we owe our lives to Him, not to the flesh. To live after the flesh promises death, but killing the deeds of the flesh by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit yields eternal life. **(14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the one thing that distinguishes the true child of God from everyone else. If you possess the Holy Spirit, you walk after the Spirit, you are killing the deeds of the flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit, you are led by the Holy Spirit. This doesn't mean that you always yield perfectly to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, sometimes you will yield your members to the sin. When you do however, the Holy Spirit will lead you to know it is sin, to confess it as such, and to turn from it and turn back to obedience. Everyone kills off the deeds of the body at different rates of growth, but if you possess the Spirit, He is always leading you to stop yielding the members of your body to sin, and yield them to righteousness, and that makes you a child of God.