

Devotional Questions – Romans 7:13-25

1. *What does the law reveal to us about sin (Romans 7:13)?*
2. *What is the essential nature of the law (Romans 7:14)?*
Why is there a conflict between Man and the Law (Romans 7:14)?
3. *If Paul knows and wants to do good – why can't he (Romans 7:15)?*
4. *Can sinful activity come from our spiritual nature (Romans 7:17-18)?*
5. *What are some examples of 'what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do' (Romans 7:15, 19)?*
6. *Why does Paul say 'who' not 'how'? Why is it important to realise that only Christ can rescue you from the power of your sin (Romans 7:24)?*
7. *Who has the solution to his problem (Romans 7:25)?*
8. *What two areas are the focus of the 'battle' for good (Romans 7:25)?*

Devotional Questions – Romans 7:13-25, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 258-274 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1495 for detailed comment.

1. What does the law reveal to us about sin (Romans 7:13)?

Romans 7:13 states that the law shows up “*sin, that it might appear sin...that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*”

The law does with sin what God does in that “*Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance*” Psalm 90:8 so that “*...our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us...In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood*” Isaiah 59:12-13.

For example, see the following “*from the heart words of falsehood*” for outright denial of the 1611 Holy Bible as “*all the words of the LORD*” Exodus 4:28, 24:3, Joshua 24:27, 1 Samuel 8:10, Jeremiah 36:4, 11, 43:1.

See fiec.org.uk/, fiec.org.uk/about-us/beliefs and emphases in statement on **The Bible**:

Beliefs

The churches of FIEC are committed to these truths of historic, biblical Christianity. Below is our Doctrinal Basis.

2. The Bible

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, **so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God**, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

“This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” Galatians 5:8-9.

2. What is the essential nature of the law (Romans 7:14)?

Why is there a conflict between Man and the Law (Romans 7:14)?

Romans 7:14 states that “*the law is spiritual*” which is true because the recipients “*received the law by the disposition of angels*” Acts 7:53 and angels “*Are...all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation*” Hebrews 1:14.

The conflict exists because of “*Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye*” Acts 7:51.

God is nevertheless ever willing to end the conflict.

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” Isaiah 1:18.

3. *If Paul knows and wants to do good – why can't he (Romans 7:15)?*

Paul states in Romans 7:14 **"I am carnal, sold under sin."** Therefore in that as Paul testifies even as a saved man **"For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing"** Romans 7:18 *his flesh* will yield to sin even as in his unsaved state e.g. **"I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women"** Acts 22:4 as he has explained earlier. **"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"** Romans 6:16. Even professing and real but immature Christians can adopt a persecuting spirit via the flesh. See www.chick.com/reading/tracts/1078/1078_01.asp.



Paul therefore explains for today's believer the essential steps in how to counter the flesh.

"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" Romans 13:13-14.

This includes mastery of the thought life with respect to **"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"** 2 Corinthians 10:5.

4. *Can sinful activity come from our spiritual nature (Romans 7:17-18)?*

Yes, which is why Paul exhorts **"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"** 2 Corinthians 7:1.

The promises for effecting that cleansing are to remember always Whose son or daughter you are and to separate from all that would hinder that remembrance.

"...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" 2 Corinthians 6:16-18.

5. *What are some examples of 'what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do' (Romans 7:15, 19)?*

Peter spells out **"the desires of the flesh"** that persist even in a saved individual and give rise to the conflict of Romans 7:15, 19. Peter also sets out how to counter those desires. That is by *reckoning* the flesh as dead, *refocusing* on the will of God, *removing* self from **"the flesh pots"** Exodus 16:3, *resisting* the gainsayers and *remembering* that God's day of reckoning will come.

"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

"That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

"For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

"Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

"Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead" 1 Peter 4:1-5.

6. *Why does Paul say 'who' not 'how'? Why is it important to realise that only Christ can rescue you from the power of your sin (Romans 7:24)?*

Romans 7:24 states ***"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"*** Paul said that because he knew the scripture, applicable as much today.

"I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour...who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" Isaiah 43:11, 45:21.

That is how Paul, delivered ***"from the body of this death"*** Romans 7:24 ***"in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ"*** Colossians 2:11 for which he could testify ***"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord"*** Romans 7:25, therefore saw his calling as today's believer should.

"For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth" Acts 13:47.

7. *Who has the solution to his problem (Romans 7:25)?*

See *Question 6* and Isaiah 43:11, 45:21, Colossians 2:11 and note the Lord's assurance. ***"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible"*** Mark 10:27.

8. *What two areas are the focus of the 'battle' for good (Romans 7:25)?*

These are ***"the mind"*** and ***"the flesh"*** Romans 7:25.

Paul therefore exhorts, especially in view of Acts 13:47, see *Question 6*, reaching down the generations:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain" Philippians 2:5, 13-16.