

God, how do I change my life?

How do I Change

My life? (part 2)

Romans 7:1-4, 14-25

¹Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to men who know the law—that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? ²For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

⁴So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

(verse 25 is from "The Message", all else is NIV.)

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Why is it such a challenge?

We all have a **SINFUL NATURE LIVING** inside of us.

What doesn't work.

- A. More **GOOD** behavior. -Ephesians 2:9
- B. The law **EXPOSES** and **INSPIRES** rebellion. -Romans 7:5;7
- C. Moral **CONFORMITY** rarely equals **HEART** change. Matt. 5:8; Rom. 2:5; Heb. 3:12; Jer. 17:9

The heart of change we're looking for.

- A. You need a **DIVORCE**. -Romans 7:1-4
- B. **KNOW** that you're a new **CREATION**! -2Cor. 5:17
- C. Give **THANKS**! -Romans 7:25

"I knew myself, at the first breath of this new life, to be more wicked, tenfold more wicked, sold a slave to my original evil... his every act and thought centered on self"

-Edward Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson's, Dr.Jekyll and Mr.Hyde

Notes:
