

# OUR FATAL FLAW

Romans 7

## Our fatal flaw: “I can change...”

*I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate...I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway...I have discovered this **principle of life**—that **when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.** Romans 7:15,19,21*

## The pain of trusting in the law/religion

### Conflict: gravitational pull of religion

*So the trouble **is not** with the law, for it is spiritual and good. **The trouble is with me**, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that **the law is good**...And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. Romans 7:14-16,18,19*

### Defeat

*...So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. **Sin took advantage** of those commands and **deceived me**; it used the commands to **kill me**... Romans 7:10-11*

### Split personality

*I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. **Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.** So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. Romans 7:21-25*

## Why the law/religion doesn't work

### Defines sin, provokes sin and condemns me

*But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the **law is good.** Romans 7:16*

### It has no power to change a life

***I don't really understand myself**, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. Romans 7:15*

## God's transforming love through Jesus

### Dead to the Law...belonging to Jesus

*For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her...So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: **You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ.** And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. Romans 7:2,4*

### New life in the Spirit

*When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and **the law aroused these evil desires** that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. **But now** we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in **the new way of living in the Spirit.** Romans 7:5-6*

## Our transformed life

### I can't...God can...living in the Spirit

Romans 8

- Where am I enjoying relationship?
- Where am I defaulting to religion?