



Confessions of a Minister:
Sometimes I don't want to obey
Romans 7-8

War of Two Worlds. The World of Right-living and the World of Sin-living. *Romans 7:14-23*

Two Natures in One Person. *Romans 7:24-25*

How you think determines how you act. *Romans 8:5-8*

Repentance is the turning of the heart toward God. *Romans 8:9*

Because of Baptism we join in Jesus' death and new life. *Romans 6:3-7*

We need to Reset our mind on God. *Romans 8:10-14*

Proverbs 26:11

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Romans 7:14-20 NLT 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

*Romans 7:14-20 NLT 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.** ¹⁵ 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.** ¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that **I agree that the law is good.** ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is **sin living in me that does it.** ¹⁸ 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.** ¹⁹ **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.** ²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.*

Romans 7:21-23 NLT I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God’s law with all my heart. ²³ 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.

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War of Two Worlds. The World of Right-living and the World of Sin-living.

Romans 7:24-25 NLT Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ 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.

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Two Natures in One Person.

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Romans 8:5-9 NLT Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. ⁸ That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

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How you think determines how you act.

**If you find yourself thinking about sinful things, I have three words for you.
Change Your Mind.**

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Romans 8:9 NLT But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to Him at all.)

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Repentance is the turning of the heart toward God.

Romans 6:3-5 NLT Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism.

And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. ⁵ Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was. ⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

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Because of Baptism we join in Jesus' death and new life.

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Romans 8:10 NLT And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. ¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

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We need to Reset our mind on God.

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**An acceptance that can never be questioned, Ephesians 1:6.
A nearness to God that can never be reversed, Ephesians 2:13.
An inheritance that can never be lost, 1 Peter 1:3-5.
A deliverance that can never be excelled, 2 Corinthians 1:10.
A righteousness that can never be tarnished, 2 Corinthians 5:21.
A grace that can never be limited, 2 Corinthians 12:9.
A hope that can never be disappointed, Hebrews 6:18-19.
A salvation that can never be canceled, Hebrews 5:9.
A bounty that can never be withdrawn, 1 Colossians 3:21-23.
A joy that need never be diminished, John 15:11.
A peace that can never be disturbed, John 14:27.**

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Proverbs 26:11 NLT As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.

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Will you confess your struggles to others, so that they can come to know God too?

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