

KIDS CATECHISM

Book/Chapter: Romans 7
Category: Basic Christian Doctrine

Date: Week of Oct. 25, 2009
Number: 07

Parent to child(ren): "Aarrgh! Why do I do what I shouldn't do? I know what is right to do; I want to do what is right, but I keep doing things I don't want to do!" Have YOU ever felt like that? Boy, I sure have! And if you have, I can assure you, we are in GOOD company. Because Paul the Apostle himself said this is how he felt early on in his Christian life. He probably felt that way often. He felt frustrated about things he did at times that he shouldn't have as a Christian, and also about things he should have done that he didn't do.

Now the truth is, EVERY sincere Christian has felt this way at times. And here is why. Though the old person every Christian used to be dies when he gets saved and every Christian is made new on the inside, our bodies (i.e., this flesh we are wrapped in), are still under the power of sin. Paul found that out. He found that sin was like an invisible force at work in his flesh that he couldn't make go away. And I want you to know your Daddy has found out the same thing. And this is true for every Christian. Though Jesus gives us new life on the inside when we get saved, our bodies (this flesh) still seek to rule over us and lead us in the wrong way. Even though in our minds and hearts we want to please God, our flesh desires many things that are wrong for us and fights against our good desires to do what we know is right and good.

Because of this, even as a Christian, if I give in to my flesh, I find that I do what I don't think is right and would rather not do. And, at other times, I find myself not doing what I believe I should and really want to do in my mind and heart!

This is a very important thing for you to learn. If, as a Christian, you try to win out over sin by simply doing your best and trying to keep all of God's laws and ways, you will fail often. Because the sin at work in your flesh is stronger than your resolve not to obey it, and it is stronger than mine too. Paul told us it was also stronger than his. It is stronger than anybody's personal strength. No one can really please God consistently by simply trying to do his best by seeking to keep God's laws and rules. Just like we need Jesus to take away our sins, we need Jesus to help us not be beaten by sin. Jesus is the only One strong enough to help us not be beaten by sin and the flesh. But thanks be to God that He lives within us and is available to help us!

Q31. Is a Christian bound to the Law of God after he gets saved?

A31. *No.* A Christian is set free from the law of God and united to Jesus. (v. 4)

Q32. How is a Christian to try and serve the Lord if it is not by trying his very best to obey God's law?

A32. A Christian is given a NEW way to serve God, *by being led by the Holy Spirit.*
(v. 6)

Q33. Why did God give us this NEW way to serve Him and live for Him?

A33. *Because sin is at work in our flesh* keeping us from being able to really please God that way.
(vv. 5; 14; 17-18; 20-23)

Q34. What happens then when a Christians tries, in his own strength, to keep God's written laws?

A34. *He feels like a wretch,* because he finds himself doing what he does not want to do, and not doing what he knows he should (vv. 15; 19; 24a)

Q35. What should a Christian do who finds himself defeated like this and feeling this way?

A35. *He should cry out to Jesus* to teach Him how to live in the NEW way of the Spirit. (v. 24b-25a)

Italicized words can be used as shortened answers for smaller children. Older children should be helped to understand and memorize the complete answers.

Scriptures to teach & to help your child(ren) hide in their hearts

KJV

Romans 7:5, “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.”

Romans 7:14, “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.”

Romans 7:24-25a, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord...”

NLT

Romans 7:5, “When we were in the flesh, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.”

Romans 7:14, “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.”

Romans 7:24-25a, “Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord...”

----- Suggested Memory Work -----

Up to age 6 / answers only (shortened, italicized answers)

Ages 7 - 9 / answers plus one scripture

Ages 10-12 / answers plus two scriptures

Ages 13 & up / answers plus all three scriptures

NOTE TO DADS: At least one day this week, sit and read Romans 7 with your family. Talk with them about the message of the chapter. By reading God’s Word to them and passing on to them the things God is teaching you at Calvary Chapel, you will be discipling your own family: equipping them to be strong in the Lord and mighty in His Word!
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