

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2023

Saturday, 7/8 at 4:00 | Sunday, 7/9 at 9:00



Text: [Romans 7:14-25a](#) NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Our **new nature** *always desires to follow God's word*, but our **old nature** remains within us ➔ *trying to get us to live as if we were NOT God's holy children.*

Referring to today's title: Why is the internal fighting good? *It shows that **the new nature** is still in the fight, it has NOT been overcome by **the old nature!***

May the HS help us to understand:

- Our own internal fight.
- What to do when we fall into sin.
- How to strengthen **the new nature**.

1. **The Law Is Good:** <sup>14</sup> **For we know that the Law is spiritual [of divine origin], but I am of flesh [of this fallen world], sold into bondage to sin. // God's Law may seem harsh or restrictive ➔ *but it is for our good and our survival.* When we follow God's Law ➔ *He is honored, and we are blessed.***

When we break God's Law ➡ *we are reminded of our great need for Jesus!*

- a. Confusion: <sup>15</sup> **For what I am doing [according to my old nature], I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do [following my new nature], but I am doing the very thing I hate [following my old nature].** // Repentant believers are like Paul: When we are forgiven and heaven-bound, **we desire to do God's will, but our old nature keeps pulling us into sin.**
- b. Confession: <sup>16</sup> **But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.** // What does that mean? Since Paul believed the Law of God was good, *he hated when he broke it.* May that same attitude be strong in each of us: Believing the Law is good **and** having godly sorrow whenever we break it!

## 2. **Sin Keeps Trying to Control Us:**

- a. Distinguish the old from the new: <sup>17</sup> **So now, no longer am I the one doing [the sin], but [the old nature] which dwells in me.** <sup>18</sup> **For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me [according to my new nature], but the doing of the good is not.** // Paul was not blaming the law for his sin, but, rather, *he was blaming his old nature*, which was passed down to him from Adam (Rom. 5:12). Dr. Kretzmann wrote: "The **depth and power of evil** in the old Adam is so great that it succeeds again and again in asserting its mastery. **But** of this the Christian's new life does not

approve, against it he struggles, from it he seeks deliverance.”

- b. Be responsible: <sup>19</sup> **For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.** <sup>20</sup> **But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.** // What did Paul mean by evil? The Greek word is κακὸν, which means:
- i. “a lack of something” – *I didn’t give my best effort, or*
  - ii. “an inaccuracy” – *I missed my goal, or*
  - iii. “good-for-nothing” – *I wasted my time.*

The word does NOT include *premeditated wickedness*. Therefore, let us ✦be responsible, ✦build up **our new nature**, and ✦avoid all that will surely bring God’s eternal wrath!<sup>1</sup>

### 3. **The Internal War Within Every Believer:**

- a. <sup>21</sup> **I find then the principle that [the old nature] is present in me, the [part of me who is alive in Christ and] wants to do good.** // Let us understand: In this life **the old nature** will always be with us 😊.
- b. <sup>22</sup> **For I joyfully [agree] with the law of God in the inner man [my new nature], <sup>23</sup> but I see a different law [the old nature] in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind [the new nature] and making me a prisoner of the law of sin [the old nature] which is in my members.** // Our internal war is raging, but let us **keep fighting** and **never give in, never TAP OUT!**

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<sup>1</sup> For example: 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:5-6

4. **The Problem and the Solution:** <sup>24</sup> **Wretched man that I am** [*wanting to honor God yet falling into sin*]! **Who will set me free from the body of this death [*the old nature*]? <sup>25</sup> **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!** // Since we are helpless to overcome our old nature, *God has sent His own Son to defeat sin, death, and the devil!* Now, **by** grace, **through** faith, **in** Jesus, **for** eternal life, we **share** in Jesus' victory and **will** eventually be free from **our old nature** forevermore!**
5. **The Ongoing Internal Fight Within Every Believer:** **So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind [*my new nature*] am serving the law of God [*knowing what is right and wanting to do it*], but on the other, with my flesh [*my old nature*] the law of sin [*being tempted and sometimes falling into sin*].**
- What to do when we fall into sin:** **Admit** it, **understand** it is ultimately against God, **be** sorry, **look** to Jesus for forgiveness, and **seek** the help of the HS to go and sin no more!
  - How to strengthen the new nature:** Be persistent in God's word – **hear**ing, **read**ing, **mark**ing, **learn**ing, and **inwardly digest**ing!<sup>2</sup>

**Let Us Pray:** Dear HS, **love** fill us, **love** give us godly sorrow, **love** assure us of forgiveness, and **love** fortify **the new nature** – *so that we glorify God in our daily lives!*

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<sup>2</sup> Go here for an explanation of each word: <https://blc7500.com/Brochures/15/DownloadText>