

# ***Between a Rock and a Hard Place***

***Ro 7:15***

Paul experienced defeat in his life as a Pharisee, and his life as a Christian. Paul wrote about this experience in Ro 7:14-25. Paul realized there was only one way to victory, and that is through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So today I want to look at Romans 7:14-25 and examine **3 main reasons** Christians experience defeat in their Christian walk.

**Reasons for Defeat –**

- 1. Trying to Keep the Law (Old Covenant)**
- 2. Relying on the Flesh (Self)**
- 3. Residual Sins of Unbelief (Unrenewed Mind)**

## Romans 7:15 (NASB)

<sup>15</sup> For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

# What is the Gospel?

## **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

***Christ died for our sins (b) Christ was buried (c) Christ was resurrected***

***The Gospel is God's offer of Spiritual Life to Man***

# “Being Between a Rock and a Hard Place”

## **Romans 7:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

## **Romans 7:18b (NASB)**

<sup>18b</sup> for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not.

## **Romans 7:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not

## Romans 7:14 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> For we know that **the Law is spiritual**, but **I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.**

### Law is Spiritual –

Leads men to Christ (Gal 3:24-25), Arouses Sinfulness (Ro 7:5), Diagnosis the need for Spiritual life (Ro 3:21-23), is no longer needed after the old self is crucified (Ro 6:15), has **no** jurisdiction over man who has been crucified and risen with Christ (Ro 7:1), is still in operation to the unsaved (1<sup>st</sup> Tim 1:9), is Holy (Ro 7:12).

### I am of the Flesh -

What is the Flesh? The NIV translates this **unspiritual**. The KJV calls translates this **carnal**.

***Flesh Definition*** – *Patterns of living in attempt to get ones needs meet **OR** Living independently of God from one's own resources.*

# Reasons for Defeat –

## Trying to Keep the Law (Old Covenant)

### Romans 7:16 (NASB)

<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.

*When Paul does something wrong, he agrees with the Law that it is good. In other words, its good that the Law aroused sin in me (Ro 7:5), because he understood that the power of sin needed to be broken, and that he needed to die to the law, and be united to Christ  
(Union with Christ)*

*Ask God to reveal to you that indeed you have died to the Law, this means that now you are untied to Christ, and he will bear fruit through you, this is doing good*

# Reasons for Defeat – Relying on the Flesh (Self)

## Romans 7:18a (NASB)

<sup>18a</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh;

***Flesh Definition*** – Patterns of living in attempt to get ones needs meet **OR**  
*Living independently of God from one's own resources.*

*We have such a strong need to get these our inner needs met, that  
most of us would sin in an attempt to get these needs met.*

## Church Members FLESH -

All churches are filled with people that have **FLESH**. The Pastor, Elders, Deacons and members all have this thing called **FLESH**.

What can the church teach to help its members live in victory, and avoid defeat?

**Teach** its members that God created the church to be a community of believers, but not for the purpose of fulfilling each other's inner most core needs. **Teach** and reinforce that mans core needs (inner most needs) have already been met in Christ, because no man is capable of meeting another mans inner most needs. Only God can meet them. **Teach** one's Identity in Christ, union with Christ, the Grace of Christ and the Great Commission of Christ.

### **Challenge**

Rather then spending so much energy in **trying** to get others to love us, accept us, or not reject us, might we consider going to God and asking him to reveal the lies we are believing, the Flesh we have developed that are the root cause of the reason we feel they way we feel. He will reveal to us that He will meet our needs if we ask HIM!



# Reasons for Defeat –

## Residual Sins of Unbelief (Unrenewed Mind)

### Romans 7:17 (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but **sin** which dwells in me.

### Romans 7:20-23 (NASB)

<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**. <sup>21</sup> I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. <sup>22</sup> For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, <sup>23</sup> but I see a different **law in the members** of my body, **waging war**

## **Romans 7:24-25 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

## **Romans 7:4b (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

# ***Reasons for Defeat***

*Trying to Keep the Law (Old Covenant)*

*Relying on the Flesh (Self)*

*Residual Sins of Unbelief (Unrenewed Mind)*

## ***Way of Victory***

***Jesus Christ our Lord and our Union With Him***