

# THE BATTLE OF TWO NATURES

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ROMANS 7:14-25

# THE BATTLE OF TWO NATURES

## ROMANS 7:14-8:2

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For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 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. But if I do the very thing I do not want *to do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is not*. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 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. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 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. Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.



# THE BATTLE OF TWO NATURES

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The Law

The Enemy at Work

The Victory



# THE BATTLE OF TWO NATURES

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**Purpose:** To learn about our enemy and prepare for battle!

## ROMANS 7:14-17

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For we know that **the Law** is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 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. But if I do the very thing I do not want *to do*, I agree with **the Law**, *confessing* that **the Law** is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

***The Law***



# QUESTIONS

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- **What does the Law look like?**
- **Why is knowing the Law important?**

# THE LAW

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For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.  
To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen. – Romans 11:36

Everything belongs to God. Everything!

# THE LAW – EXODUS 20:3-7

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“You shall have no other gods before Me.” “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.” “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”



# THE LAW

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‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ – Matthew 22:37

WHAT DOES FOLLOWING THE LAW LOOK LIKE?

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**Answer:**

**Jesus**

# JESUS LOVED THE FATHER

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“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.” – John 4:34

“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.” - John 5:19



# JESUS LOVED HIS FATHER

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Proverbs 4:23 – “Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.”

**Jesus was either talking about the Father, demonstrating the Father, or telling people how to have the best relationship with the Father**

# JESUS LOVED HIS FATHER

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Jesus's love for the Father translated into how he treated people.

John 17:26, "I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."



# THE LAW – EXODUS 20:8-17

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“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery. “You shall not steal. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

## THE LAW – MATTHEW 22:39

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‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS  
YOURSELF.’

# JESUS LOVED OTHERS

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Jesus honored His mother

**Jesus honored authority**

Jesus died on the cross to give us life

**Jesus did not commit murder**

Jesus came for and is faithful to His bride

**Jesus did not commit adultery**





# JESUS LOVED OTHERS

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Jesus never stole anything

**Jesus asked and received**

Jesus is the truth

**Jesus was bold in His proclamation of truth**

Jesus never complained

**He never asked for another set of disciples.**



# JESUS LOVED OTHERS

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Jesus's life on earth was characterized by:

***Compassion***

***Grace***

***Forgiveness***

***Mercy***

***Justice***

***Patience***

# JESUS LOVED OTHERS

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How Jesus treated others is directly related to His love for His Father

“for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.” - John 5:19

**Compassion**

**Grace**

**Forgiveness**

**Mercy**

**Justice**

**Patience**

Exodus 34:6–7 (NASB95)

“The LORD, the LORD God, **compassionate** and **gracious**, **slow to anger**, and abounding in **lovingkindness and truth**; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who **forgives** iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

# JESUS LOVED OTHERS

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“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” – 1 Corinthians 2:2

The greatest expression of Jesus’s love for the Father and His love for others is His death on the cross!



# THE REASON FOR THE LAW

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Galatians 3:24 “**Therefore the Law has become our tutor** *to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*”

How would we know we were sick?

How would we know to find a cure?

How would we know what to battle?



## ROMANS 7:18-20

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For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in **my flesh**; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 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.

The Enemy at Work

# THE FLESH

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Paul often uses *flesh* to represent the aspect of a person (or worldly existence) that is dominated by sin

1 Timothy 1:15, “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.”

# OTHER EXAMPLES

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**King David** – A man after God's own heart killed a man because he committed adultery with the man's wife.

**The Disciples** – Couldn't stay awake and pray while Jesus was in Gethsemane.

**The Apostle Peter** – Denied Jesus three times, was restored, and Paul rebuked him after Peter showed partiality to the Jews in the letter to the Galatians.

**Hebrews 11** – Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Moses, and Rahab...

- These people were not all picture perfect and God put them in His hall of Faith



**WE CAN RELATE!**

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**Pick a situation! Any situation!**

# We can relate!

- Sports Team
- Food
- Entertainment
- Vacation
- Children
- Parents
- Work
- Driving
- Cell Phone
- Respect
- Wisdom
- Resume
- Experience
- Looks
- Health
- Home
- Books
- Ministry
- Disease
- Emotions
- Music
- Weather
- The grass

What is your situation?

What are you loving or hating about these things?

Do you become joyful because you get what you want or angry because you are not?

# WE CAN RELATE!

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Do you find yourself more focused on these things than God?

Do you find yourself becoming more joyful over these things than God?

Do you find yourself more angry over these things than God?

**The answer is yes!**

# WE CAN RELATE!

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You may have grown but there is still room for growth! Something has captured your heart!



# EXAMPLE

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You on your way home

You are dreaming about your evening

You walk into chaos

You become tense as this is not what you want

You respond with a choice word

# EXAMPLE

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A dispute happens

After the dust settles, you see where you screwed up and you start feeling horrible.

- How could I have reacted this way?
- How could I really be saved?

It would seem this nature wins most of the battles



# HOW DID THE FLESH WIN

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The flesh won this battle because the mind was focused on the flesh's desires.

The consequences of this loss is we get no relaxation and peace but relational disruptions, guilt, and shame.

Paul expresses this battle



## ROMANS 7:21-24

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I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. **Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?**

Evil is the opposite of how **Jesus** lived





# THE BODY OF DEATH

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The Body of Death was a Roman Punishment.

- The corpse of a murder victim was strapped to the murderer until the murderer died from disease and decay.
  - Sin is a disease

## ROMANS 7:25

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***Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!***

The Victory

***Jesus's example also serves our victory***

## ROMANS 7:25

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***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.***

### ***The division in a Christian***

The law of God lives in our mind

The law of sin lives in our flesh



# ***THE BATTLE OF TWO NATURES***

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***HOW DO WE WIN THE BATTLE?***

## ROMANS 8:1-2

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“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

## HOW DO WE WIN THE BATTLE?

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“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” – I Corinthians 2:2

“**now** no condemnation”

Focus on the victory Jesus Christ secured!!!!

## HOW DO WE WIN THE BATTLE?

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“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” – I Corinthians 2:2

“law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”

Focus on the life Jesus Christ lived and imitate  
Him!!!!

# THE PURPOSE

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To learn about our enemy and prepare for battle!