

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

FLESH VS SPIRIT

THE BATTLE WITHIN

ROMANS
7:13-20

V. 13

- ▶ Paul's overall goal?
 - ▶ Understand Grace
- ▶ What destroyed us?
 - ▶ The Law? "God forbid!"
 - ▶ "It was sin producing **death** in me"
 - ▶ Rom. 6:23a

So what was the reason for the Law?

- ▶ To expose and incite our wicked nature into activity.
- ▶ Why was this so important to God?
 - ▶ It was necessary for mankind to realize his own depravity.

The Law removed our ignorance of sin

- ▶ Example – Saul of Tarsus
 - ▶ Acts 9:7-9
 - ▶ Acts 9:10-12
- ▶ Truth had destroyed his self-assurance and the ignorance was now gone.



v. 14

- ▶ Sin produced death in Paul through the Law since it is holy and he was not.
- ▶ We need to take ownership of our sinful condition.

Sinful nature

- ▶ It always promises future strife
 - ▶ Paul is not saying that he's unsaved
 - ▶ Neither is he saying he no longer possesses a sinful nature

v. 15

- ▶ A **contrast** between the *flesh* and the *Spirit* is presented.
- ▶ Our sinful nature is hell-bent
 - ▶ In principle – “I don’t care what God says!”
 - ▶ In practice – “I’m doing my own thing anyway!”

v. 15

- ▶ Our spiritual nature aligns itself with God's Word.
 - ▶ The part that enables fellowship with God
 - ▶ Eph. 4:24 – created in God's likeness
 - ▶ Col. 3:10 – leads us to true knowledge
 - ▶ Gal. 5:16 – allows us to overcome the flesh

Connection to our present

- ▶ Remember how Paul felt?
 - ▶ Sin was exposed, was ashamed
 - ▶ No longer ignorant of the error of his way
- ▶ Think about most of mankind today!
 - ▶ Not believing they're guilty of any sin
 - ▶ Not believing they're condemned before God

v. 17-18

- ▶ Paul's restatement in these verses is adding an emphasis for his Jewish audience
 - ▶ God and His system are not the problem. We are!
 - ▶ Our sinful nature is what keeps us from doing the right thing, not God.

v. 17-18

- ▶ These verses give us a strong message about our moral condition.
- ▶ Absolutely important that we confront our sinful nature!

v. 19-20

- ▶ Paul is giving the same lesson, just using different terms.
- ▶ Does God's Holy Spirit dwell within you?
- ▶ It's the only power we need, to be victorious in our battles against the flesh.