HOW DOES CHRISTIANITY WORK ACCORDING TO ROMANS CHAPTER SEVEN?

Giving Up World Training And Human Effort

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Solving Christian Principles With Romans Chapter Seven

Version 25.2.1

The Twenty-Five Truths Of Romans Chapter Seven

There are twenty-five truths Jesus wants to teach you through Romans chapter seven. This is a chapter that reveals the initial struggle of someone who only knows human effort, self-esteem and confidence, and world training. While you are on your journey, as a new and untrained Christian, there will be things you go through that you need to understand why. It is a good tool for helping you or a friend make their journey from their Romans-chapter-seven life into their Romans-chapter-eight life.

How To *Be* Free Of A Law

TRUTH ONE: Once you die, the law no longer has any influence or jurisdiction over you.

Rom 7:1 (NIV) Do you not know, brothers--for I am speaking to men who know the law--that <u>the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives</u>?

How To Be Free Of A Marriage Law

TRUTH TWO: The marriage contract is no longer in effect, once the other spouse dies.

Rom 7:2 (NIV) For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but <u>if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage</u>.

How To *Live* Free Of A Law

TRUTH THREE: The marriage contract law is still in effect as long as both spouses are alive.

Rom 7:3 (NIV) So then, <u>if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress</u>. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

How You *Became* Free Of A Law

TRUTH FOUR: You died to the law by accepting Jesus' death as your death through faith.

Rom 7:4 (NIV) So, my brothers, <u>you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him Who was raised from the dead</u>, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

The Law Used For Evil
TRUTH FIVE: As an unsaved person, you were controlled by the **sinful nature** in your body. Its **passions** were illegal according to the law of sin and death in the Old Testament. And, you yielded to those passions and died spiritually and were separated from God. **Rom 7:5 (NIV) For <u>when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death</u>.**

Free From One Law Into Another Law
TRUTH SIX: **By dying** through accepting Jesus' death as your death **to what once bound** you, which was the law of sin and death in the Old Testament**,** you **have been released from the law so that** you **serve <u>in the new way of the Spirit</u>**, which is the law of the Spirit of life in the New Testament**. Rom 7:6 (NIV) But now, <u>by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit</u>, and not in the old way of the written code.**

What God's Law Is Not
TRUTH SEVEN: The law of sin and death in the Old Testament is not sin. **Rom 7:7 (NIV) What shall we say, then? <u>Is the law sin? Certainly not</u>! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."**

When Law Doesn't Exist
TRUTH EIGHT: If there is no law, then you can't break it. **Rom 7:8 (NIV) But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For <u>apart from law, sin is dead</u>.**

Your Conscience Became Your Law
TRUTH NINE: **When the commandment came:** When you became old enough to be responsible for knowing the difference between right and wrong, good and bad, and righteousness and evil, God caused your conscience to become active. **Sin sprang to life and I died:** When that happened, you sinned and became separated from God. **Rom 7:9 (NIV) Once I was alive apart from law; but <u>when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died</u>.**

Your Conscience Lacks Power
TRUTH TEN: **The very commandment that was intended to bring life:** The law of sin and death was to point out what was spiritually deadly so you would avoid it, thus keeping you alive in your relationship with God. **Actually brought death:** But, because of the **sinful nature** in your body, you were pushed into a life of sin (you broke the law) and death (you were separated from God). **Rom 7:10 (NIV) I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.**

Satan Deceived You
TRUTH ELEVEN: **Sin, seizing the opportunity**: As an unsaved person, Satan tempted you to do things against God's law like he did with Adam and Eve. **Deceived me:** Satan made things look good that he was tempting you with. **And through the commandment:** Since the Holy Spirit was speaking to your conscience and telling you sin is wrong, you knew what God's commandment was. When you did it anyway, you knowledgeably sinned on purpose and it **put** you **to death. Rom 7:11 (NIV) For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.**

God's Law Is Good
TRUTH TWELVE: The law of sin and death in the Old Testament is telling you the truth about those things it labels sins. Therefore, when it tells you not to do something, it is giving you a **holy, righteous and good command. Rom 7:12 (NIV) So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.**

God's Law Serves An Important Purpose
TRUTH THIRTEEN: **Recognized as sin:** You had to know what was destroying your life; sin was killing you. So, you needed to avoid it. **It produced death:** It was good that the law showed you what was killing you, but it made you responsible. **Sin might become utterly sinful:** Satan was deceiving you by making sin look good; but, God's law told you the truth about sin. **Rom 7:13 (NIV) Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.**

God's Law Lacks Power
TRUTH FOURTEEN: **The law is spiritual:** It is how the spirit realm works. **I am unspiritual:** You only know how the natural, human world works. **Sold as a slave to sin:** God's law is teaching you the truth; but, that's all it can do. It can't keep Satan, your body, and the world from pushing you into sin. **Rom 7:14 (NIV) We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.**

You Lack Power
TRUTH FIFTEEN: Just like **the law of sin and death** doesn't have the power to force or help you do what it is making clear to you, even though you see how right it is, you can't force or help *yourself* live it. **Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do.**

Your Want Is Important
TRUTH SIXTEEN: Since you can see that the law of sin and death is **good,** even though you don't have the power to obey it, you are still a true Christian. **Rom 7:16 (NIV) And *if* I do what I do not *want* to do, I agree that the law is good.**

You Have A Perfect Record With God
TRUTH SEVENTEEN: The moment you became a true Christian, God gave you a perfect record with Him, so that when *your body* does wrong, bad, or evil things, He doesn't hold it against you. He considers it a sin that was committed by your body. **Rom 7:17 (NIV) As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.** This is talking about the sinful nature that is inside your body.

The Sinful Nature Is More Powerful Than You
TRUTH EIGHTEEN: **I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature:** The **sinful nature** is in your body and that makes **nothing good** living **in** the body part of you. **For I have the desire to do what is good:** The spirit part of you **wants** to do good and **hates** doing anything bad. **But I cannot carry it out:** Your human effort and world training does not work in Christianity. You need Jesus to help you **carry it out. Rom 7:18 (NIV) I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.**

The Sinful Nature Is More Powerful Than Your Want
TRUTH NINETEEN: **For what I do:** As a new or untrained Christian, most of what you were taught was human effort. So, you ended up continuing to do wrong, bad, and even evil to yourself, other people, and God's plan. **For what I do is not the good I *want* to do:** Because you are a true Christian, you **want** to do good. **The evil *I do not want* to do--this I keep on doing:** Because you haven't been trained and know how to yield to the power of the Holy Spirit, you keep doing things you **hate. Rom 7:19 (NIV) For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.**

You Are No Longer Your Deeds
TRUTH TWENTY: **Now *if* I do <u>what I do not *want* to do</u>:** This **"if"** brings you into **the law of the Spirit of life** in the New Testament. This verse is how you can *know* you are a true Christian. **It is no longer I who do it:** This is your perfect record with God. He considers it to no longer be you doing those things that are wrong, bad, or evil. He attributes it to the enslavement put on you by your body. **But it is sin living in me that does it:** The evaluation of God is putting the blame on the **sinful nature** of your body. **Rom 7:20 (NIV) Now if I do what I do not want to do, <u>it is no longer I who do it</u>, but it is sin living in me that does it.**

This Is The Law Of Your Body
TRUTH TWENTY-ONE: **So I find this law at work:** This is the law that governs the new and untrained Christian. It is a temporary law that will soon be rescinded. **When I *want* to do good:** Keep in mind, this is the attitude and desire of the true Christian. **Evil is right there with me:** You are living in your body that has the **sinful nature.** You have to fulfill the activities of your day through your body that has this evil resident in it. **Rom 7:21 (NIV) So I find this law at work: <u>When I *want* to do good</u>, evil is right there with me.** The sinful nature is right there resident in your body.

This Is How You Feel
TRUTH TWENTY-TWO: **In my inner being:** This is you, a spirit being. **I delight in God's law:** Because you, a spirit being, are a true Christian, this is how you feel about the law of sin and death in the Old Testament. You see the importance **that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.** You agree that **the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.** That is why you **delight in God's law. Rom 7:22 (NIV) For in my inner being I delight in God's law.**

This Is What You Are Dealing With
TRUTH TWENTY-THREE: **But I see another law at work in the members of my body:** There is a body law. **Waging war against the law of my mind:** The law in your mind is **the law of the Spirit of life.** The law of your body is **waging war against the law of** your **mind.** The law of your body is **making** you **a prisoner of the law of sin at work within** your **members. Rom 7:23 (NIV) But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.**

Truth Twenty-Three is why Romans 7:15 is happening to you: **I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do <u>I do not do</u>, but what I *hate* <u>I do</u>.** It is why **it is no longer I who do it.**

You Realized That You Needed Outside Help
TRUTH TWENTY-FOUR: **What a wretched man I am:** As Jesus explained verses fifteen on down to here, He was telling you that, as a new or untrained Christian, you were trying to live the Christian life using human effort and world training. You, like every other Christian, found out that it doesn't work in Christianity. So, at this point, you see your need to cry out for outside help. **Who will rescue me from this body of death:** This is just a question; it isn't yet an *ask*-prayer that is *asking* for help. It is just asking, **Who will rescue me? Rom 7:24 (NIV) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

You Discovered That Jesus Could Help You
TRUTH TWENTY-FIVE: **Thanks be to God:** This is your first step into **the law of the Spirit of life.** You had to learn the truth of twenty-four, that you needed outside help. But, it was eternally vital that you learn it. **Who** was going to **rescue** you **from this body of death? Through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So, once you prayed The Lord's Prayer or some "sinner's prayer," you then did what Romans 10:8-10 told you to do; and, you were saved and justified. But, that was when you started your Romans 7:15-25 journey of trying to get human effort and world training to help you live the Christian life.

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. I myself: You are now aware that you are a spirit being with a mind inside you that is **a slave to God's law.** You are also aware that your body has a **sinful nature** in it that is **a slave to the law of sin.** Jesus will use Romans chapter eight to help you solve this problem. **Rom 7:25 (NIV) Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, *I myself* <u>in my mind</u> am a slave to God's law, but <u>in the sinful nature</u> a slave to the law of sin.**

Conclusion

If you want to do a more thorough study and prayer time with Jesus in Romans chapter seven, go to wctlc.com and select, **"I would like good BOOKS to read."** Once there, select: **"I'm A Regular Participant."** Once you get to the book list, scroll down to book number five and select: **"Committing To the Christian Life."** When you get there, select the title in the gray bar; and Jesus will take you through a much more complete study and prayer time concerning Romans chapter seven.