

The Motions of Sins

(Rom 7:5-6)

- In Ch 7 Paul is dealing with the relationship of the Christian to the Law in answer to the objection of the legalist

I. Mechanics

A) Rom 7:5-6 is an elaboration of the statement made in v.4

1. “For”- explanation
2. The remainder of the chapter is Paul working out this great explanation
 - i. V.5-6- Why we had to die to the law and why we had to be joined unto Christ
 - a) V.5-6 are:
 - 1) Key to understanding this chapter
 - 2) Key to understanding Paul’s doctrine concerning the Law
 - 3) Key to understanding the doctrine of sanctification (including justification)

II. Terms

A) “**In the flesh**”

1. “Flesh” is used in several ways in the scriptures:
 - i. Mankind- Referring to all humans
 - a) 1 Pet 1:24- “All flesh is as grass”
 - ii. The physical body
 - a) Gal 2:20- “The life I now live in the flesh”
 - iii. The sensual desires
 - a) Gal 5:17- “The flesh lusteth against the spirit”
 - iv. The old unregenerate life- The opposite of “life in the Spirit”
 - a) John 3:6- “That which is born of the flesh”
 - b) Rom ch 8 expounds on this
 - 1) Paul uses “carnal” interchangeably with “in the flesh”
 - 2) It is to be under the rule and dominion of sin
 - c) Rom 7:6- “In the flesh” also means “under the Law”
 - 1) Gal 3:3- “Begun in Spirit, now perfected by the flesh (works of law)?”
 - 2) Phil 3:3- “Worship in Spirit, no confidence in flesh (works)”
 - d) Rom 6:14- All mankind is either “in the Spirit” (under grace) or “in the flesh” (under law)

B) “**Motions of sins**”

1. The passions, affections, desires, lusts of man “in the flesh”

- i. This does not refer simply to man's natural God created appetites and inclinations, for these are of God for man's good
 - a) 1 Tim 4:1-3- Wrong to condemn God-given desires
- 2. "Motions of sins" = man's natural desires overtaken by the fall of Adam
 - i. Man controlled by his appetites rather than controlling them
 - a) Sex was created for man by God for good, today it rules over man
 - b) Food " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "
 - c) Pleasure " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "
 - d) Affection " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "
 - e) Employment " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "
 - ii. Col 3:5- "Inordinate affection"- not as ordained/appointed by God
- 3. "Motions of sins"- Those feelings prompting us to commit sin by use of that which is of itself good

C) **By the Law**

- 1. Through the use of the Law
 - i. The Law doesn't create the desires, but stirs them up in sinful man
 - ii. The Law inflames the passions of the natural man
 - iii. The "motions of sins" is in all mankind, but the Law sets them to work by sin's power

D) **Work**

- 1. To work powerfully and effectually, strong, certain, possessing work
 - i. Phil 2:12-13- God "worketh" in us
 - a) Lesser word used for "work" in v.12
 - ii. This word speaks of a power coming in and taking ownership/dominion
 - a) Rom 6:12-13- Sin used all man's faculties to produce its fruit
 - 1) Matt 5:28- Proves the "members" include the mind, will, imagination, etc.
 - b) 2 Thess 2:7- "Mystery of iniquity doth already work"
 - iii. This fruit produced was only "unto death"
 - a) Paul now uses "fruit unto God" vs Fruit unto death"
 - b) Wages of sin is only death in every way, and finally the 2nd death (Rev 20:6)

III. Doctrine

A) The terrible and overwhelming power of sin

- 1. Sin is not just a negative act, but a positive power working within
 - i. Man refers to this as the "drives"
 - ii. These "dives" are so powerful, they cannot be regulated by law but only aggravated by it (Paul works this out in Rom 7:7-13)

B) Failure of morality teaching/Social Gospel

- 1. Sin is the 2nd most powerful thing in the universe

- i. It is therefore absurd to bring in the modern idea of removing punishment and instead educating
 - a) Educating on these passions only inflames them (Tit 1:15)
 - C) The true function of the Law
 - 1. Rom 5:20-21- The Law entered that sin might abound
 - i. To show sin in its true light, to reveal its true work and power
- IV. The great need of Christ!
- A) The 2nd most powerful thing in the universe can only be conquered by the 1st in power and might
 - 1. Luke 11:21-23- The strong man and the Stronger Man