

"IT'S AGAINST THE LAW"

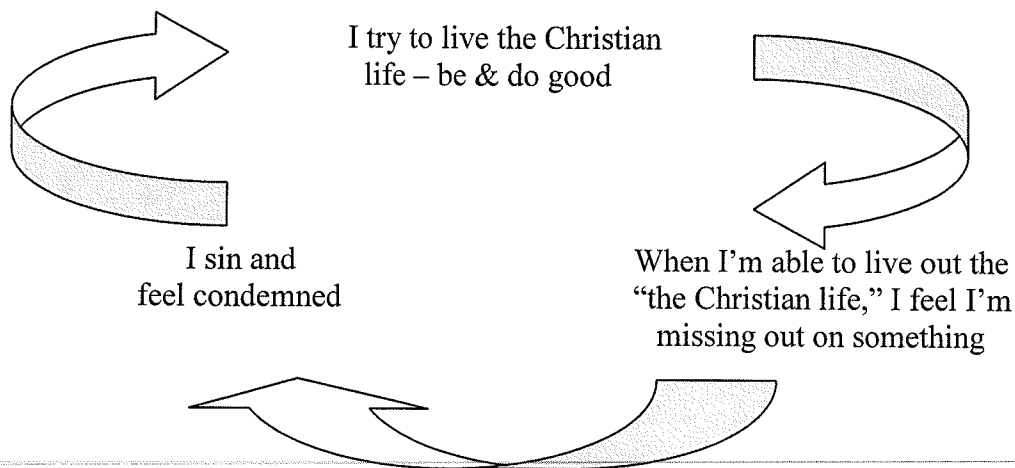
New Me, Part 5
August 30th, 2009

We understand when Christ died on the cross He freed us from the penalty of sin, but we often forget a parallel truth – His death set us free from the power of sin

Becoming a Christian as an adult can be bad for your self-esteem because instead of looking left & right comparing yourselves to others, you look up at God

You commit to try to live out the Christian life and realize you can't do it

The "Cycle"



The extreme example of this cycle is the person who says, "I'm so bad at being a Christian, I'm better off not being one anymore."

This is NOT the life God called us to live!

God accepts us, not based on anything we have done, but God completely accepts us based on what Jesus did for us

Even as a Christian sin still dwells in our physical bodies

Romans 7:11 (NIV) "For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me..."

Sin deceives us when we think we must obey rules/laws to be right with God & when we feel we are missing out on something by following God; sin keeps us in the cycle

As a consequence we revert back to a performance based relationship with God and we struggle

The Struggle

The struggle is not you vs God's law (desires); there is another entity involved - sia

Romans 7:15,16 (NIV/NLT) "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good."

Romans 7:17 (NIV) "As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me."

Romans 7:18 (NIV) "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

As long as your struggle is characterized by "I want to," but "I don't want to," you'll never have victory because you can't do it!

Romans 7:19-20 (NLT/NIV) "When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it."

Must factor in sin, not as an excuse but as part of the equation to achieve victory

Romans 7:21-23 (NLT) "It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another law at work within me that is at war with my mind. This law wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me."

Good news - This is not what God has called you to. Better news - This is not where God has left you

Romans 7:24 (NIV) "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

The solution to break out of the cycle and your struggle is not you, it's Christ
Romans 7:25 (NIV) "Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

This is not God entering into your dilemma & giving you the strength to do the right thing

Because you've been given a brand new life in Christ, you have the power & authority at the initial outset, before you get dragged into the dilemma, to say NO to sin

The power of sin is broken because of Jesus, not you, because you are "in Christ"

The next time temptation knocks at your door, let Christ answer it

Try to see yourself as God sees you

My Next Step Today Is:

- I am asking God to help me apply the truth we've looked at today to break out of the "cycle"
- I will concentrate on seeing myself as God sees me
- I will memorize Romans 7:24-25
- I can help at the Kids Festival on Saturday, September 19th