

**The Greatest Letter Ever**  
**Your Inner Civil War**  
**Romans 7:14-25**

**Introduction: The More You Know**

**Our Focus:** The civil war that rages inside us because of our struggle with sin

*So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. (Romans 7:14 NLT)*

**Consider the Person Involved In the War**

**1<sup>st</sup> View:** A Non-Christian Pharisee

**2<sup>nd</sup> View:** A Normal Christian

**3<sup>rd</sup> View:** A Carnal Christian

**Consider the Passage as a Whole**

**Sections:** #1 (vv. 14-17); #2 (vv. 18-20); #3 (vv. 21-24)

**The Problem**

1. I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. (v. 14)
2. I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. (V. 18)
3. Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. (V. 21)

**The Conflict**

1. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. (v. 15)
2. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. (VV. 18-19)
3. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. (VV. 22-23)

**The Reason**

1. It is sin living in me. (v. 17)
2. It is sin living in me that does it. (v. 20)
3. This body that is subject to death. (v. 24)

## **The Distinguishing Feature**

1. Paul states the struggle generally
2. Paul states it as doing what he doesn't want to do
3. Paul states it as being impossible to do what he wants to do

## **Consider The Ways We Try To Make It Better**

**1<sup>st</sup> Way:** A Formula

**2<sup>nd</sup> Way:** A New Experience

**3<sup>rd</sup> Way:** Avoidance

## **Consider Spiritual Realism**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reality:** I have a problem (v. 14)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reality:** I'm confused (v. 15)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reality:** I'm frustrated (v. 18)

**4<sup>th</sup> Reality:** I'm in a battle and I'm losing (vv. 21-23)

**5<sup>th</sup> Reality:** I feel trapped (v. 24)

## **Consider the Lessons**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson:** We have two natures

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson:** Our will is powerless to change our old nature

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson:** Our only deliverance is through the power of Jesus Christ (v. 25)

## **Consider Some Practical Suggestions**

**1<sup>st</sup> Suggestion:** Admit it when you are confused

**2<sup>nd</sup> Suggestion:** Try to accept your imperfections

**3<sup>rd</sup> Suggestion:** Leave room for failure

**4<sup>th</sup> Suggestion:** Express your true feelings to God

**5<sup>th</sup> Suggestion:** Don't depend on rules and resolutions