

# **The Believer and Indwelling Sin, Part 1**

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 7:14-25.

B. Paul pictures a Christian who is at war with sin in his heart.

A. There is still conflict for the person who has been recreated in Christ. (Romans 6:12)

B. Unbelievers do not delight in the law of God—they are not subject to it. (Romans 8:7)

C. The Christian wants to do good but finds himself doing bad things.

D. This is not a carnal Christian—it is a mature Christian who is wise enough to see the evil within him. (Ephesians 3:8, 1 Timothy 1:1)

E. The problem is not with the law—it is with us.

C. Paul has several laments describing the condition, proof and source.

## II. Lament 1.

A. Condition: the law is spiritual but the flesh is still in the believer (although the believer is not *in* the flesh any more). (Philippians 3:1)

B. Proof of the condition.

1. The sinful propensities are still in force.

2. The road to spirituality is paved with one's own wretchedness.

C. Source of the problem.

1. It is not the person, but sin within that is the problem.

2. The recreated person is not the source.

3. There is a difference between surviving sin and reigning sin.

4. The flesh is at war with the Spirit today—we are to walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:17)

**Application Questions:**

1. What does Romans 7 teach us about the reality of sin in the life of a believer?

---

---

2. How would you address a believer who claims that belief in Christ should result in immediate perfection?

---

---

3. Why is it important to distinguish the source of sin within a believer today?

---

---