



THE ENEMY WITHIN

<sup>3</sup>For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God [did:] sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and [as an offering] for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

<sup>4</sup>so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup>For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup>For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

<sup>7</sup>because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able [to do so,]

<sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

*Romans 8:3-8* [NASB]

*7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able [to do so,]  
8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. [NASB]*

*Romans 8:7-8*

Why can't the  
"requirement of the  
law" be fulfilled when  
I'm walking according  
to the flesh?



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*Romans 8:7-8*

“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.”

*Romans 7:18*



- <sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?
- <sup>2</sup> May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?
- <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
- <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
- <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,
- <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
- <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin.
- ...
- <sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Romans 6:1-7, 11* [NASB]

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*Romans 8:7-8*

“Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?”

*Romans 7:24*



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*Romans 8:7-8*

“Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.’”

*Isaiah 6:5*



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*Romans 8:7-8*

“But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ”

*Luke 5:8*



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*Romans 8:7-8*

## 2 FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE ENEMY:

1

2



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## 2 FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE ENEMY:

1 Paul learned... that the greatest threat to His Christian life was dwelling in him!

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## 2 FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE ENEMY:

1 Paul learned... that the greatest threat to His Christian life was dwelling in him!

2 Paul had to learn exactly how evil the sin nature is.



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*Romans 8:7-8*

“Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.”

*Proverbs 21:2*



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*Romans 8:7-8*

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

*Genesis 6:5*



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*Romans 8:7-8*

“The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, ‘I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.’”

*Genesis 8:21*



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## TWO CRITICAL THINGS ABOUT PAUL'S ENEMY, THE SIN NATURE

1

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## TWO CRITICAL THINGS ABOUT PAUL'S ENEMY, THE SIN NATURE

1 The sin nature is still present in the Christian even though we have been judicially freed from its power. And we can walk according to it, even though we are dead to it.

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## TWO CRITICAL THINGS ABOUT PAUL'S ENEMY, THE SIN NATURE

1 The sin nature is still present in the Christian even though we have been judicially freed from its power. And we can walk according to it, even though we are dead to it.

2 The sin nature is not capable of **any** goodness from God's perspective.



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*Romans 8:7-8*

“Those who are in the  
flesh cannot please God.”  
*Romans 8:8*



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*Romans 8:7-8*

“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.”  
*Romans 8:9a*



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*Romans 8:7-8*

**1** The indwelling sin nature is our worst **enemy**.

It is **attached** to us, and always seeking to **control** us.

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*Romans 8:7-8*

**1** The indwelling sin nature is our worst **enemy**.

It is **attached** to us, and always seeking to **control** us.

**2** The sin nature is **only** capable of sin.

Our human good **and** our bad.



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8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. [NASB]

*Romans 8:7-8*

“Those who are in the flesh *cannot* please God.”  
*Romans 8:8*

“And without faith it is *impossible* to please [God]...”  
*Hebrews 11:6*



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When we walk “according to the Spirit” we are resting our faith in specific things that God has revealed to us in His Word.

