



## Ego

Romans 7:5, 6— **For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.**

1 Timothy 1:5-11—Now **the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,** from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, **desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.** But we know that the law is good **if one uses it lawfully,** knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is **any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God** which was committed to my trust.

Galatians 3:24—Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster **to bring us unto Christ,** that we might be justified by faith.

Romans 7:7— **What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”**

1 Timothy 1:12-14—And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, **because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.** And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 7:8-14—**But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.**

**I [ego] was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I [ego] died.**

**And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me,**

**Members**—3196 **melov** melos {mel'-os}

- 1) a member, limb: a member of the human body
- 1a) of bodies given up to criminal intercourse, because they are as it were members belonging to the harlot's body

**Purpose**—5056 **telov** telos {tel'-os}

- 1) end
  - 1a) termination, the limit at which a thing ceases to be
    - (always of the end of some act or state, but not of the end of a period of time)
  - 1b) the end
    - 1b1) the last in any succession or series
    - 1b2) eternal
  - 1c) that by which a thing is finished, its close, issue
  - 1d) **the end to which all things relate, the aim, purpose**
- 2) toll, custom (i.e. indirect tax on goods)

1473 **egw** ego {eg-o'}

a primary pronoun of the first person I (only expressed when emphatic); TDNT - 2:343,196; pron

AV - I 365, my 2, me 2, not tr 1; 370

- 1) I, me, my



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**and by it killed me. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.**

Philippians 3:3-9—For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have **no confidence in the flesh.** Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.**

Romans 7:14—**For we know that the law is spiritual: but I [ego] am carnal, sold under sin.**

1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:1-7—To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified in Christ Jesus**, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.

**And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.** I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; **for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?** Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. **So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.**

**In summary—Romans 7:5-14**



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The law of Christ leads us to the sacrifice of Christ so that we can be delivered from ego. By beholding the law in Christ we see more and more of our sinfulness as He exposes not only outward acts of sin but the the wretchedness of our selfish nature. Without understanding the deep spiritual nature of the law as a revelation of God's character, sin is undetectable, but through the spiritual character of the law we come to a realization of sins which have gone undetected. Ego wants to be recognized. Ego wants things done his way. Ego is looking out for number one while not looking like he is looking out for number one. I know because I live with ego.

Jesus is the law. Jesus is the sacrifice. The revelation of Jesus reveals the wretchedness of our ego. The cross of Jesus delivers us from our ego. When we see Jesus... we are willing to be anything or nothing so that we may do heart service for the Master.

### Notes—

“Paul says that ‘as touching the law’—as far as outward acts were concerned—he was ‘blameless’, but when the spiritual character of the law was discerned, when he looked into the holy mirror, he saw himself a sinner. **Judged by a human standard, he had abstained from sin, but when he looked into the depths of God's law, and saw himself as God saw him, he bowed in humiliation, and confessed his guilt.** He did not go away from the mirror and forget what manner of man he was, but he exercised genuine repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. He was washed, he was cleansed. He says, ‘I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.’

Sin then appeared in its true hideousness, and his self-esteem was gone. He became humble. **He no longer ascribed goodness and merit to himself. He ceased to think more highly of himself than he ought, and he ascribed all the glory to God. He was no longer ambitious for greatness. He ceased to want to avenge himself, and was no longer sensitive to reproach, neglect, or contempt. He no longer sought earthly alliance, station, or honor. He did not pull others down to uplift himself. He became gentle, condescending, meek and lowly of heart, because he had learned his lesson in the school of Christ. He talked of Jesus and His matchless love, and grew more and more into His image. He bent his whole energy to win souls to Christ.** When trial came upon him because of his unselfish labor for souls, he bowed in prayer, and his love for them increased. His life was hid with Christ in God, and he loved Jesus with all the ardor of his nature. **Every church was dear to him; every church member was a person of interest to him; for he looked upon every soul as the purchase of the blood of Christ.**



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The apostle Paul, in relating his experience, presents an important truth concerning the work to be wrought in conversion. He says, ‘I was alive without the law once’—he felt no condemnation; ‘but when the commandment came,’ when the law of God was urged upon his conscience, ‘sin revived, and I died.’ Then he saw himself a sinner, condemned by the divine law. Mark, it was Paul, and not the law, that died” (6BC 1076).

“The Lord bears long with men, and when they manifest a determination to follow their own judgments, the Lord allows them to do so. **I have been made to see the weakness and ignorance of fallen man, even in his best estate.** As man goes deeper and deeper in his studies, improving in learning the will and ways of the Lord, **he sees more of his own ignorance, thus revealing that he has made decided progress from the beginning.**

The nearer the Christian lives to God, the more he advances in divine illumination of mind. **He has more distinct sense of his own littleness, discerns his defects of character, and sees his duty in the light in which God presents it. The more closely he draws to Jesus, the more he has a near and clear sense of his own defects which had before escaped his notice,** and he sees the necessity of humbling himself under the mighty hand of God. If lifted up it will not be because he lifts and exalts himself, but because the Lord exalts him. Having his eye fixed upon the purity and perfection of Christ Jesus, and acknowledging and obeying God in all his ways, **he is not blinded to his own failures and imperfections.** When his deportment in the eyes of men is unblamable and irreprovable, **God reads the intents and purposes of the heart.**

Christian humility is a wonderful grace—the very antidote to the apostasy of Satan, which has unholy ambition and every delusion that he can frame. The grace of humility through Christ Jesus will **make an imperfect man discern his imperfections** and make him meet for the inheritance of the saints, where God is all and in “ (This Day with God, p. 16).

“**From the Holy of Holies, there goes on the grand work of instruction.** The angels of God are communicating to men. Christ officiates in the sanctuary. We do not follow Him into the sanctuary as we should. Christ and angels work in the hearts of the children of men. The church above, united with the church below, is warring the good warfare upon the earth. **There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ's cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven. There we shall see more clearly as we are seen. We shall know as we are known**”(1888 Materials, p. 27).

## God's law is a transcript of God's character



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<p>God is just - Romans 3:26.          God is PURE - 1 John 3:3.          God is LIGHT - 1 John 1:5.          God is FAITHFUL - 1 Corinthians 1:9.          God is GOOD – Matthew 19:17.          God is SPIRITUAL - John 4:24.          God is HOLY - 1 Peter 1:15.          God is TRUTH - John 14:6.          God is LIFE - John 14:6.          God is RIGHTEOUSNESS - Jeremiah 23:6.          God is PERFECT - Matthew 5:48.          God is ETERNAL - John 8:35.          God is THE WAY - John 14:6          God is UNCHANGING - Malachi 3:6          God is JUDGE - Psalm 50:6          God is LOVE - 1 John 4:7,8</p>	<p>His law is JUST - Romans 7:12.          His law is PURE - Psalm 19:7,8.          His law is LIGHT - Proverbs 6:23.          His law is FAITHFUL - Psalms 119:86.          His law is GOOD - Romans 7:12,16.          His law is SPIRITUAL - Romans 7:14.          His law is HOLY - Romans 7:12.          His law is TRUTH – Ps. 119:142,151.          His law is LIFE - Matthew 19:17.          His law is RIGHTEOUSNESS- Ps. 119:172.          His law is PERFECT - James 1:25.          His law is ETERNAL - Psalms 111:7,8.          His law is THE WAY - Psalm 119:30-32          His law is UNCHANGING – Ps. 111:7,8          His law is JUDGE - James 2:12          His law is LOVE – Matthew 22:36-40</p>
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### Ego in action

“Our ministers must cease to dwell upon their peculiar ideas with the feeling, **"You must see this point as I do, or you cannot be saved."** **Away with this egotism.** The great work to be done in every case is to win souls to Christ. **Men must see Jesus on the cross, they must look and live. It is not your ideas they must feed upon, but it is the flesh and blood of the Son of God.** He says, "My flesh is meat indeed" (John 6:55). "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). (1SM 178).

“Those in the world, having lost their connection with God, are making desperate, insane efforts to make centers of themselves. This causes distrust of one another, which is followed by crime. The kingdoms of the world will be divided against themselves. Fewer and fewer will become the sympathetic cords which bind man in brotherhood to his fellow man. **The natural egotism of the human heart will be worked upon by Satan.** He will use the uncontrolled wills and violent passions which were never brought under the control of God's will. . . .” (3SM 418).

The religion of Christ changes hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong. **It banishes self-confidence and egotism, leading man to see himself as he is,—weak and sinful, unable of himself to do any good**



**thing.** It leads him to behold Jesus, and beholding, he is changed into His likeness” (ST, January 8, 1902).

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