

THE GREATEST LETTER EVER WRITTEN #16
"The War Inside"
Romans 7:14-25

Intro: Feelings of a new Christian

I. YOU HAVE TWO NATURES

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

- _____ nature (1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9)

"Everyone who has been begotten of God does not sin, because His seed abides in him, and he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God"

1 John 3:9 (Literal Translation Bible; J. P. Green, editor)

- _____ nature (Gal. 5:16-18; Rom. 7:18)

"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature"
Romans 7:18 (NIV)

The Result: *For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other...* Galatians 5:17 (NIV)

"Do everything without complaining and arguing, that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."
Philippians 2:15 (NKJV)

II. A DESCRIPTION OF A STRUGGLING CHRISTIAN - Romans 7:14-25

When we try to live the Christian life by our own energy and power, we're doomed to failure.

Five Emotions of the Struggling Christian

1. Admission of the _____. (vs. 14)
"We know that the Law is spiritual but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin."

2. Admission of _____. (vs. 15-16)
"I do not understand what I do."

3. Admission of _____. (vs. 17-20)
"It is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."

4. Admission of fearing at times, that he is _____ the _____. (vs. 21-23)
"So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law, but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members."

5. Admission of the need for salvation from _____. (vs. 24)
"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

The solution: *"Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* (vs. 25)

III. BEING A REALISTIC CHRISTIAN MEANS:

1. It's _____ to be confused at times. V.15
I do not understand what I do.
2. Be aware of your _____. V.18
I know that nothing good lives in me.
3. Be aware their will be _____. V.19
the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.
4. Remember, right living begins with right _____. V.25
So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Closing: