

## The 10th Commandment Exposes the Sinful Nature, Romans 7:7

**Romans 7:7** - Therefore, to what conclusion are we forced? Is the Law sin? Emphatically not! On the contrary. I was not cognizant of the sinful nature except through the Law. For example, I did not understand the lust pattern except the Law kept on saying, "You will not lust!"

Paul discerned at this point that his parishioners were misunderstanding the relationship between the first husband and the marriage counselor. The duty of the marriage counselor is to inform the wife—the unbeliever—that she was involved in a bad marriage. In no way does this arrangement imply that the marriage counselor supports the leadership qualities of the first husband.

The Roman believers concluded that since the Mosaic Law was marriage counselor to a corrupt first marriage then the Law must be corrupt as well. In other words, they were willing to execute the messenger because of its message. However, it is the sinful nature which is corrupt, not the Mosaic Law which exposes it.

The Mosaic Law was issued to Moses by God and it is impossible for anything God produces to be corrupt. Paul demonstrates these points by using the 10th Commandment as an example of how the sins of his lust pattern were exposed to him by the Law. He says, *ouk ginosko hamartia* - "I had not known sin."

*ginosko* is the aorist active indicative of the verb for knowledge, specifically, metabolized doctrine in long-term memory traces.

The unbeliever is involved in the three arrogant skills: self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption. While living in this mind set, the unbeliever never questions that his lifestyle is wrong or that any of his troubles are the result of his decision-making process. He projects the cause of all his problems onto others, he never takes responsibility for his own decisions, and he never places any restraint upon his own behavior. Cognizance of the fact that his thoughts, decisions, and actions are sinful never enters his conscious mind. The idea that they reflect inherent trends is completely unknown to him: *ouk ginosko hamartia*.

Paul indicates that for him, it was the Mosaic Law's prohibition of lust which informed him of the presence of the sinful nature.

**Exodus 20:17** - You shall not covet [*hamad*: to lust after; an inordinate, unrestrained, and selfish desire and intense passion to possess something] your neighbor's house; you shall not lust after your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The marriage counselor's duty is to reveal to mankind that what he does is wrong and forbidden within God's moral order. It is man's knowledge of the Law's moral prohibitions which provides God with legal justification to condemn sinful man.

Principle: Fallen man must come to the realization that he is wrong before he can ever realize that he has a problem. Once he realizes that he is wrong then he begins to seek a solution to the problem.

The next priority for the Law as marriage counselor is to reveal the solution in the Messiah. In Romans 7:5 Paul indicates that knowledge of the Law served to further intensify his inordinate desire to violate it. Why is this?

Because the inherent trend of the sinful nature is to control the soul of the individual. This places it in status quo anti-authority and in a state of complete, total, and open warfare with the righteousness of God. Thus, the behavior patterns which are placed into long-term memory traces under the influence of the sinful nature are classified by Solomon as wheel-tracks of wickedness.

The problem with Paul is that he is ignorant he has wheel-tracks of wickedness, that he has a behavior problem, that he is involved in a thing called personal sin. The message which the Mosaic Law communicates to the believer is that he is involved in unrighteous thoughts, decisions, and actions.