

Knowledge of the Law Carries Responsibility for Sin, Romans 7:9

Romans 7:9 - Now at one time I lived apart from the Law but when the Tenth Commandment came into my conscious mind the sinful nature became invigorated and I realized I was spiritually dead.

The statement, “*I lived apart from the Law,*” indicates that Paul was physically alive but spiritually dead.

Human life is the result of the imputation of soul life to biological life. Spiritual death is the result of the imputation of Adam's original sin to the genetically formed sinful nature.

Romans 5:13 - Just as through one man, Adam, original sin entered into the world resulting in spiritual death, consequently, spiritual death spread to all men because all sinned when Adam sinned.

But was Paul totally ignorant of the Mosaic Law? Of course not. He was a model Jew—educated, religious, and zealous for the Law.

Philippians 3:4 - If anyone has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:

Philippians 3:5 - circumcised the eighth day, of the nation Israel. of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;

Philippians 3:6 - as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Paul was raised Jewish which means he was raised under the Law. Paul became a Jewish theologian, trained as a Pharisee. Paul's problem is that his entire life was centered on keeping the letter of the Law in order to achieve a relationship with God.

Principle: Paul learned the Law in hopes of acquiring human perfection. The intent of the Law was to reveal his human imperfection.

Ignorant of the true intent of the Law, Paul tried to keep the Law while ignorant of his spiritual death and his sinful nature. Paul's ignorance of the sinful nature continued until he finally perceived from the Tenth Commandment that within himself was the source of human lust. Once this reality dawned on Paul, he was then aware of his predicament. He submitted to his lust whose children were sin, human good, and evil.

Awareness of right and wrong set up a challenge between the memory traces of right and wrong. Paul understood the need for perfect righteousness. But the Tenth Commandment revealed to Paul that his members were the source of unrighteousness and therefore his zeal for perfect righteousness was in vain.

Exposed in Paul's stream of consciousness, the sinful nature becomes motivated to defend its position as first husband: head of the household of the soul. Therefore, Paul's knowledge of the Tenth Commandment, which revealed to him his lust pattern, caused the sinful nature to become: *anazao* - “*to take on fresh life;*” “*to become much more active,*” “*to become invigorated.*”

While Paul was ignorant of his sinful nature, he was innocent of the fact he was sinful. But when he became aware of his lust pattern, he then became responsible for the fact he was sinful. Why now responsible? Cognizance of his innate propensity to sin places Paul under personal responsibility for its production.

Understand what I am saying here! Paul was guilty of all his sins committed since physical birth including Adam's original sin imputed to his sinful nature. Further, Paul was held responsible for all ramifications associated with his sinfulness including divinely imposed goads. But Paul cannot be expected to take the responsibility for correcting his behavior pattern if he is unaware that he is the source of the problem. Up to the point of his cognizance of inherent sin, Paul operated on the assumption that as long as he kept the Law, all was right with God.

What Paul failed to perceived was that the Law's job was to reveal to him that he was unrighteous, incapable of keeping its mandates, and thus permanently separated from God. Once the Law, through the Tenth Commandment, was successful in revealing to Paul his problem, it was then able to reveal the solution. Until you realize you have a problem, there is no reason to seek or consider a solution. The presence of both the problem and its solution are revealed in the Mosaic Law.