

Deception of the Sinful Nature, the Righteousness of the Law, Romans 7:11-12

To obey a mandate places one in the position of a slave. Masters are not used to taking orders from slaves. The sinful nature is not only master of the unbeliever's soul, it is its tyrannical dictator who will suffer no competitors.

Thus, a mandate against lust serves to cause an intensification of its desires. Previously, all lustful desires were practiced in innocence. Following knowledge of the Tenth Commandment, lust is intensified thorough opposition to authority which constitutes rebellion. In order to hold on to its position as commissar of the soul, the sinful nature begins to deceive its host. Deception is accomplished through influence from its area of strength which is human good and evil.

Lust and gratification of lust is justifiable if a rationale can be constructed which can appease any guilt associated with violating the mandate. This describes the current administration. Bill Clinton is a reversionistic believer. The major lust pattern which dominates his soul is power lust. He has an inordinate, unrestrained, and selfish desire accompanied by intense passion to control others. He denies that this is lustful and wrong. In order to compensate for this dichotomy, he justifies his obsession by believing that his intentions are good and will help everyone if they will just go along. He deceives himself into believing that, in order to bring about his desired result, any means will justify that end. His self-absorption is demonstrated by his bewildering practice of knowingly contradicting himself and then, when confronted with the fact, blithely denying it. All of his statements therefore become rhetorical veils designed to promote while concealing his hidden agenda, which is absolute control of as many people as possible.

A chillingly accurate analysis of Clinton's vacuous persona appears in a column written by:

Wheeler, Jack. "Behind the Lines." Strategic Investment. Feb. 14, 1996, p. 7:

Clinton is not a president—he is a presidential candidate and nothing more. Every decision, every act is political; nothing is done to govern, it is all done to run for office. Most politicians wear a mask in front of the electorate, and hide much of their real persona behind it. But with Clinton, there's just the mask. There's nothing real behind it.

While Quisling thinks he is accomplishing the greater good for the greater number (the rhetorical veil of Marxism), he is in reality creating evil. He is able to justify his own personal corruption by performing acts which make him feel better about himself. Yet, his sinful nature couldn't give a whit about anybody else. Its only desire is to feed its power lust and will utilize human good and evil in order to maintain control over the soul of the President of the United States. He is an example that the lust pattern of sinful nature deceives us and according to Paul kills us.

The word translated "kill" is the verb *apokteino* and refers to either the natural or spiritual life of a person.

Here it is the latter and thus speaks of spiritual death. Paul was not aware of his spiritual death until the Tenth Commandment revealed it to him.

The sinful nature is able to use its strengths of human good and evil to delude mankind and distort truth. Men will pursue these ideas of human good and evil in the blind hope of bettering the human condition but all they do is permit the sinful nature to maintain sovereign control over their lives.

Just because the Law reveals our spiritual death does not mean that the Law is a part of spiritual death. Spiritual death comes from the presence of the sinful nature in the cell structure of the body. This condition has existed since physical birth when Adam's original sin was imputed to the sinful nature. Therefore, in Romans 7:12, Paul begins to defend the sanctity of the Law.

Romans 7:12 - Therefore, as a matter of fact, the Law is holy, also the Tenth Commandment is holy, perfect justice, and intrinsically good.

How much suffering does a person have to endure before he comes to realize that others are not the source of his problems?

When I teach you about pain and suffering as divine discipline designed by God to encourage a change of thought within your soul, do you counter with the assertion that a loving God would not impose such “*barbaric*” restraints?

When I reveal the use of goads designed by God to steer you back into neglected wheel-tracks of righteousness do you counter with the assertion that a gracious God would not employ such tactics?

When I demonstrate from an analysis of the imperative mood that in reality you are always a subservient slave either to your sinful nature or to God, do you counter with the assertion that you will not be held subservient to anybody including God?

If you have your own agenda and things are not working out for you, don't you think it's about time you took an objective moment to consider the fact you may be wrong?

In Romans 7:12 Paul makes the point to first century believers that the Law is not their problem—the problem lies within each one of them inside the neurons of his brain. The problem is the first husband, the sinful nature which maintains control through its lust pattern. Specifically, Paul states that the Tenth Commandment is holy, meaning it is a standard which originates from the integrity of God.

Further, the Tenth Commandment is upheld from the source of perfect justice. Perfect righteousness demands of justice that its perfect standards be upheld without exception. Compliance with divine standards results in the imputation of blessings and rewards. Noncompliance with divine standards results in the application of divine discipline, first of all by means of warnings through divine goads and secondly intensification, if necessary, through the imposition of pain and suffering.

This would be a good spot to stop and review the metaphor, “*kicking against the goads*,” found in Acts 26:14, but we won't. If you're interested in brushing up on the metaphor you should consult the following lessons:

The Christian Way of Life vol. 2, CWL145 - CWL148