

Implications Presented by Paul's Dilemma

The linear action of the progressive present indicates a behavior pattern in which Paul consistently submits to the temptations of his lust pattern rather than his true authority, Jesus Christ. This means that Paul has great difficulty making volitional decisions to defend his own soul from the assault of his first husband.

The reason is his neglect or rejection of the three spiritual skills: (1) filling of the Holy Spirit, (2) the grace apparatus for perception, and (3) the problem-solving devices with emphasis here on # 1, rebound. Without the skillful utilization of the Holy Spirit's delegated power, without skillful accumulation of wheel-tracks of righteousness through the grace apparatus for perception, and without skillful deployment of rebound as the solution for carnality, Paul is incapable of overriding the paths of least resistance facilitated within his brain. Paul's behavior problem is, to coin a phrase, somapsychic—mental symptoms are caused by physical distractions.

No member of the human species is capable of ridding himself of the corrupting influence of his sinful nature. Doctrinal orientation to reality allows the believer to accept the fact and thus develop a relaxed mental attitude about his condition. God does not expect us to supersede the laws of the universe in order to conquer our sin problem— He is the One who has taken that action.

God has provided the perfect eternal solution to sin problem through the provision of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Once saved, God provides the perfect temporal solution to our sin problem through the provision of divine operating assets, three of which are indispensable in the process—the filling of the Holy Spirit, the mentorship of the Holy Spirit, and the problem-solving devices beginning with rebound.

God knows we cannot maintain status quo spirituality, that's why He provided rebound—1 John 1:9.

God knows we cannot manage our somapsychic condition with human energy, that's why He provided the filling of the Holy Spirit.

God knows we cannot override wheel-tracks of wickedness which have been facilitated into paths of least resistance with human viewpoint, that's why He provided His Word as divine viewpoint for the renovation of our souls.

When a believer volitionally decides to separate himself from these divine provisions, he has willingly submitted to the desires of the sinful nature. Without the three spiritual skills, the believer is incapable of defending his soul from the assaults of the first husband. This results in a somapsychic condition called carnality.

Consequently, rebound is a recovery procedure. It is not a license to sin. It is the only means by which we may resume the advance. With the two power options activated, the believer has the capacity to acquire the doctrine necessary to override the sinful nature and walk in newness of life.

Romans 7:14 - Consequently, we know—we comprehend in long-term memory traces—that the Law is spiritual but I am tendentially carnal, belonging to the realm of the sinful nature, when I have been led astray under the authority of the sinful nature.

Romans 7:15 - For what I do—what perpetually works its way out of me—I do not understand, because what I resolve to do [**wheel- tracks of righteousness**], these things I am tendentially not practicing, but what I detest [**wheel-tracks of wickedness**], these things I keep on doing [**because they are facilitated into paths of lest resistance**].

Principles on Human Good and Evil

I have not mentioned to this point a very important principle because I did not want to introduce too much information at once and detract from the initial emphasis of our study which is the source of Paul's behavior problem.

We have determined that the source is his volition which results in the commission of personal sin.

However, once the sinful nature is able to gain control of the believer's soul it then moves the person into the execution of human good and evil.

It is this secondary problem that I now wish to address since carnal status can be maintained as long as the believer remains ignorant about the recovery process.

The two major tactics utilized by the sinful nature to maintain the ignorance of its host is human good and evil.

All personal sin was judged on the cross. Thus, sin poses no threat to your salvation and it has no impact on your eternal security. However, it does have an influence on the temporal status quo of your soul. If the power of the sinful nature was broken at the cross, then it has no sovereign authority over the believer in time.

Further, since it is dead to the believer, its function of human good and evil was also been rejected at the cross. However, the Lord was judged only for our sins. His sacrifice did nothing to eliminate the problems associated with human good and evil.

Therefore, we must realize that although sin is dealt with through rebound, human good and evil can only be dealt with through Bible doctrine.

Therefore, it is through human good and evil that the sinful nature deceives the Christian into believing that he is spiritual when he is in fact carnal.

Let's illustrate with an example. A person accepts Christ as Savior but never utilizes his divine operating assets and thus remains ignorant about God's righteous standards. He continues to make decisions based on facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness and makes poor decisions which limit his further options.

Eventually divine goads transform into the pain and suffering of divine discipline. Frustrated, he consults someone whom he considers to be spiritual. He is advised that if he had truly believed in Christ then he would not be involved in a carnal lifestyle. Therefore, he must not have expressed true faith in Christ and was not really saved in the first place. He is advised to learn a list of fruits which allegedly reflect the lifestyle of a truly saved person. He is advised to again believe in Christ and to also make Him Lord of his life.

Without doctrine or the filling of the Holy Spirit, this believer attempts to perform what he believes to be the Christian way of life but which is in fact human good. Not realizing he is in status quo carnality, he seeks to recover from his condition, not through confession alone to God alone, but by performing human works by means of human energy.

After having conformed to the "*works list*" for a time he manages to convince his spiritual advisor that his second salvation experience was real and he is now really and truly saved. He has bought a false gospel and unknowingly lives a life in carnality producing the fruits of the flesh.

When he then communicates this false system of salvation and false method of producing divine good to others, he becomes apostate and enters into the realm of evil.

Although Paul is not involved in Lordship salvation, he is involved in a carnal lifestyle which produces a behavior pattern he does not understand. Not only does he sin, he becomes involved in human good and evil. Only rebound can correct the former while only doctrine can resolve the latter.

The fact Paul knows he has a problem contributes a great deal toward its solution. It is his knowledge of the Law that reveals to him the need for a change. Paul's challenge is to discover the process and procedure which will facilitate that change.

King, Florence. "The Misanthrope's Corner." National Review. 3 June, 1996, p. 64.