

Good of Intrinsic Value; Romans 7:18c**Principles**

It must be stated that some good of intrinsic value does lie in Paul, but its residence is not in his body but in his soul—the filling of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine circulating in his stream of consciousness. Under the two power options, the believer is enabled to acquire divine thought.

We have studied how the human brain processes information and how that information is stored into long-term memory traces available for recall when stimulated by certain vectors. This is human memory. This is how man learns, understands, remembers, and acts. However, we have taken great pains to demonstrate that for the believer, inculcation of divine thought into the memory traces of the brain requires the participation of the Holy Spirit.

We have also noted that we must distinguish between the human organ, the brain, and the spiritual organ, the soul.

The human brain is made up of over 100 billion neurons and at least 10 trillion synapses into which is stored human knowledge. At physical birth, the perfect soul, created by God, is inseparably united with the totally depraved human brain, created by man in procreation. This results in the creation of a human life which is physically alive but spiritually dead.

However, at spiritual birth, an amazing transformation occurs: the human brain is given the capacity to store divine thought under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Under His mentorship, the Holy Spirit first teaches the believer doctrinal truth; the Greek word is *didaktos*.

He brings it to the believer's academic understanding in the association cortex of the brain; the Greek word is *ginosko*.

At this point, the believer's positive volition permits the Holy Spirit to route the information through the soul's stream of consciousness as *epignosis*.

Through the Spirit's enabling power, the information is stored in the brain in a long-term memory trace. Later, the Holy Spirit, using vectors contained in the stream of consciousness frame of reference, is able to recall this stored information into the believer's conscious mind; the Greek word is *mnemoneuo*.

Part of this divine knowledge involves biblical solutions to life's problems. Without knowledge of these principles, the believer is unable to please God, to serve Him, or to maintain stability in the Christian walk.

Therefore, it becomes one of Satan's top priorities as well as the sinful nature's chief objective, to distract the believer from acquiring this thought process.

Just as the athlete keeps his body in shape by going repeatedly to the gymnasium for workouts, so also must the believer keep his soul in shape by going to the gymnasium of Christianity, the local church.

Exercise in the athletic gym puts muscle on the body resulting in the ability to solve physical problems with human strength. Exercise in the Christian gym puts muscle on the soul resulting in the ability to solve spiritual problems with divine power.

What human energy is to the body, spiritual energy is to the soul. Whereas food is nourishment to the human body, Bible doctrine is nourishment to the soul. Therefore, solutions to human problems are not found in the body but the soul.

Solutions are developed by means of the three spiritual skills: filling of the Holy Spirit plus the Grace Apparatus for Perception producing biblical problem-solving devices.

Food taken into the body is either burned as energy or discarded as waste. On the contrary, the power of utilized doctrine is never burned up or even diminished, in fact the more it is used the more facilitated it becomes. Doctrine is never discarded as waste since once it is placed by the Holy Spirit into long-term memory traces it can never be forgotten. Therefore, the soul has good of intrinsic value in the stream of consciousness but the body has no good of intrinsic value within its members.

“In fact, I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) there does not reside any good of intrinsic value...”

The next sentence of the verse emphasizes the part of the soul which is involved in the grace solution—human volition. It begins with the conjunction + the present active infinitive of the verb: *thelo* - “desire,” “for the desire is present in me.”

This refers to the volition’s relationship to the spiritual conflict in that it desires to do the right thing.

A young athlete may have a great desire to play baseball and may even have the raw talent to play it well. But when he first walks on the diamond, he doesn’t have the capacity to perform up to a competitive level.

He must first learn how to play the game. He has to learn the rules and then he has to learn how to train his body to compete within the parameters of those rules.

Having a desire to play does not equal out to actual performance.

Here’s one for you ladies. A wife may have a desire to please her husband but she isn’t able to actually perform the task. Thus, she has to be trained how to do this.

Now Paul tells us in Titus that the older women, meaning mothers, are to teach the younger women, meaning their daughters, how to love their husbands.

Titus 2:3 - Older women are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, not enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

Titus 2:4 - in order that they may train the young women to love their husbands and to love their children.

What’s the process and procedure for producing this desire? Well times they are a changing but some things remain constant whether practiced or not. I’ll leave it up to you ‘90s ladies to determine if the following advice is applicable to your household. Let’s just say it is one way a wife can take a desire to please her husband and put it into practice.

This is an excerpt from a Home Economics textbook published circa 1950:

- 1. Have dinner ready: Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal on time. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospects of a good meal are part of the warm welcome needed.*
- 2. Prepare yourself! Take 15 minutes to rest so you will be refreshed when he arrives. Tough up your makeup, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people. Be a little gay and a little more interesting. His boring day may need a lift.*
- 3. Clear away the clutter: Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives, gathering up school books, toys, paper, etc. Then run a dust cloth over the tables. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order and it will give you a lift too.*
- 4. Prepare the children: Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces (if they are small), comb their hair, and if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.*

5. *Minimize all noise: At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of washer, dryer, dishwasher, vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet. Be happy to see him. Greet him with a warm smile and be glad to see him.*
6. *Some don'ts: Don't greet him with problems or complaints. Don't complain if he's late for dinner. Count this as minor compared with what he might have gone through that day.*
7. *Make him comfortable: Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest he lie down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soft soothing and pleasant voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.*
8. *Listen to him: You may have a dozen things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.*
9. *Make the evening his: Never complain if he does not take you out to dinner or to other places of entertainment. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure, his need to be home and relax.*
10. *The goal: Try to make your home a place of peace and order where your husband can renew himself body and spirit.*

I warn you that I am simply the messenger bringing you the message. Objectivity would require you ladies to put these instructions to the test before assaulting the messenger. Report back to me next Sunday your findings. I can assure you that I will consider your views a part of job associated strain and pressure which Jo Henra will compensate for with her soft, soothing, and pleasant voice upon our return home.

My point: You may desire to please your husband but you may not have the capacity to put it into practice. Wanting to do something is not the same as doing it. Process and procedure is the issue and that can only be accomplished by knowledge.