

Right Action Demands More than Just A Decision

It is important to remember the fact which has been established in the protasis. present - The progressive present of description of the verb *poieo* indicates action that is now going on. Also called the pictorial present since it presents to the mind a picture of events in the process of occurrence. In our analysis we reviewed the entire process which Paul goes through in order to “do” what he does not desire. In order to maintain this vector in your conscious mind I am going to expand our corrected translation to read:

“Now if, as a result of my personal volitional decision, I am doing what I do not desire to do (and I am)...”

If you do something you do not desire to do, then we must conclude that you desired to do it since you do, in fact, do it. Volition grants permission for the cerebral cortex to activate a wheel-track only if it is something it desires to do. So, what does Paul mean when he says that he does what he does not desire to do?

Paul does not desire to sin. It’s that the temptations from the SWAT Team are so subtle that in a state of volitional weakness he chooses the path of least resistance. In effect he does what is expedient and therefore familiar.

It is very, very difficult to do the right thing. The right thing demands more than a decision. It also requires one to defend the decision, make a stand for truth if necessary, and endure the assaults of those who may disagree.

Therefore, it is really quite easy to desire to do the right thing but be unwilling to face the ramifications of doing so. What results is a trend to take the path of least resistance, to execute a familiar wheel-track which carries with it no major inconveniences. Some of those inconveniences might include what is known as peer pressure, social ostracism, criticism, vilification, vituperation, anger, hatred, name-calling, character assassination, manipulation, maligning, judging, and, in some cases, violence.

Knowing you have done the wrong thing while desiring to do the right thing leads to frustration. This is the lifestyle of the loser believer. You have wheel-tracks of righteousness in long-term memory, but without reliance upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, it cannot be acted upon. You may desire to do it, but you desire to avoid ramifications more and thus you ultimately desire to make the easy choice. Volition, swayed by the influence of the SWAT Team, chooses to go with the path of least resistance—facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness.

Once more in our passage we see Paul’s liaison with his first husband result in commission of a spiritual *ménage à trois*.

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