

## The Source of Sinful Action

It is clear that Paul's volition decided to follow the temptations of the lust pattern and order his brain to execute a sinful wheel-track. But, the actual execution of the sin finds its source in the sinful nature whose power has been restored over Paul's soul.

*A ménage à trois* has resulted in a *coup d'état*.

Next comes the adversative conjunction of contrast which introduces clarification of what is producing the sin in question: *alla* - "but." This is followed by identification of the source of sinful action: *hamartia* - "sinful nature."

While the sinful nature is the origin of sin, human good, and evil, volition is the culprit. Because of retroactive positional truth the power of the sinful nature has been broken. In addition, the individual's slavery to his first husband has ended in divorce.

Current positional truth has resulted in a new marriage to Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to function as its Counselor. Divine operating assets grant the believer the potential to defend himself against the assaults of the first husband.

Metabolized doctrine plus the enabling power of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to be successful in that defense. Therefore, whenever sin occurs, responsibility cannot be attributed to the sinful nature since its power and sovereignty over the soul has been broken. The only way it can regain control over the soul is to conduct a *coup d'état*.

The lust patterns become its agent provocateurs whose mission is to tempt Paul's volition. The sinful nature's coup attempt can succeed only if Paul's volition consents by committing a *ménage à trois*.

"But the sinful nature..." This is accompanied by the present active participle of the verb: οὐκ ἔχω - "which resides in me" present - Progressive of duration; denotes that which has begun in the past and continues into the present.

This present tense takes us back to Paul's physical birth when the imputation of soul life to biological life created human life. Simultaneous with this was the imputation of Adam's original sin to the genetically formed sinful nature. This condition, begun in the past, has continued throughout Paul's life, even after his salvation.

The body still has the residence of the sinful nature in its cell structure even though its power has been broken. Sovereign power is restored by means of volitional consent. When this occurs, the sinful nature executes acts of sin. They may not be what Paul desires to do in his efforts to please God, but he does them nonetheless. Therefore, even though the sinful nature produces the sinful act, Paul's volition is held responsible.

active - The sinful nature produces the sin.

participle - Circumstantial; emphasizes that even though the sinful nature's power has been broken it still resides in the human body.

Volition, acting as the culprit of the second marriage, chooses for sin when seduced by the temptations of the lust pattern. A final prepositional phrase isolates the sinful nature inside the human body: ἔν + ἑγώ - "inside of me."

**Romans 7:20** - Now if, as a result of my personal volitional decision, I am doing what I do not desire to do (and I am), I am no longer the one producing the sinful act but the sinful nature which continuously resides inside of me.

If you do something you do not desire to do, then you must desire to do it since you wind up doing it. Volition is free and it alone makes the decision to produce fruit. While the conscience tries to influence volition to remain loyal to its norms and standards, the lust pattern also seeks to influence it to submit to its temptations.

Volition may desire to do the right thing but do the opposite. Why? Because decisions cannot be isolated as a singular act with no resultant ramifications. The right thing demands more than a singular decision. It also requires one to defend the decision, make a stand for truth if necessary, and endure assaults from 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.