

Romans 7:21c; Summary of Romans 7

Whether in his time of carnality Paul conceptualized all these things or not is unknown. We do know that he had facilitated wheel-tracks of human good and evil which he regarded during his time of unbelief as “*the honorable thing.*” But in either case, Paul was not able to fulfill his desire of performing divine good. Instead, he discovered within himself the principle of evil. This is brought out by the locative of sphere from the personal pronoun: *ego* - “*in me.*”

Then comes the neuter singular of the adjective used as a noun: *kakos* - “*evil.*”

This is accompanied by the present middle indicative of the verb: *parakeimai* - “*to be present in; to reside in.*”

“Consequently, I discover this principle, that when I desire to do the honorable thing, the principle of evil resides in me.”

present - Progressive of duration; indicates that which has begun in the past and continues to the present. Evil has resided in Paul in the past with the result that it continues to reside in him at the present time.

Again, we see the present tense indicate the presence of facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness in Paul’s brain. Evil is a part of the trends inherent in the sinful nature. Once sin is committed, the sinful nature’s *coup d’état* of the soul is accomplished.

Part of the production which comes from carnal status is not only sin but also human good and evil. In fact, it is so certain in the life of fallen man that it may be classified as a law.

The desire to do the honorable thing cannot be accomplished without the guidance, direction, and leadership of the Holy Spirit. His counsel to the wife of the new marriage is to apply doctrinal memory traces to experience for the production of divine good. Without doctrine to recall, all such desires are short-circuited by the law of evil.

middle - Indirect; evil produces the action of being present in Paul’s body.

indicative - Declarative; a statement of fact.

CTL Romans 7:21 - Consequently, I discover this principle, that when I desire to do the honorable thing, the law of evil resides in me.

This completes paragraph 3 of Romans 7.

1. The Two Marriages of the Believer (Romans 7:1, Romans 7:2, Romans 7:3, Romans 7:4, Romans 7:5, Romans 7:6)
2. The Mosaic Law as Marriage Counselor to the First Marriage (Romans 7:7, Romans 7:8, Romans 7:9, Romans 7:10, Romans 7:11, Romans 7:12, Romans 7:13, Romans 7:14)
3. The Attacks of the First Husband (Romans 7:15, Romans 7:16, Romans 7:17, Romans 7:18, Romans 7:19, Romans 7:20, Romans 7:21)

We have noted two such attacks:

1. The Attack of the SWAT Team—the agent provocateurs of the lust pattern whose mission it is to tempt volition into committing a ménage à trois. (Romans 7:15, Romans 7:16, Romans 7:17)
2. Once the decision is made by volition to submit to the temptation, the sinful nature executes a coup d’état on Paul’s soul. (Romans 7:18, Romans 7:19, Romans 7:20, Romans 7:21)
3. Paragraph 4 comes up next, “The Battle of Wheel-tracks” or, “Do You Know the Way to Santa Fé?” (Romans 7:22–25)

4. Before starting this last paragraph, which will be the climax to our study of Paul's Behavior Problem, let's review the corrected and expanded translation of Romans 7:14b–Romans 7:21.

Romans 7:14b - ... 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 least resistance**].

Romans 7:16 - Now if I keep doing this thing which I do not desire to do, I keep on agreeing with the Law that it is advantageous.

Romans 7:17 - But as the case really stands, I am no longer habitually performing this thing [**production of the sinful nature**] but the sinful nature which keeps on living in me.

Romans 7:18 - In fact, I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) there does not reside any good of intrinsic value, for the desire to do the will of God is present in me but the divine-good production of my desire is not.

Romans 7:19 - For the intrinsic good I desire, I do not do, but the evil which I do not desire, this I keep on practicing.

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.

Romans 7:21 - Consequently, I discover this principle, that when I desire to do the honorable thing, the law of evil resides in me.