

**2nd Option: Capitulate, Romans 7:25c**

The first thing stated is the source of that which is on the other hand, the noun: *sarx* - “with my flesh.”

Then comes the second use of the verb, the present active indicative of: *douleuo* - “capitulate.”

present - Iterative; used to describe what occurs at successive intervals and thus connotes the alternatives resulting from the options.

active - Paul produces this action of surrendering to the allurements of the agent provocateurs. indicative - Potential of impulse; under the *men-de*.

*men-de* formula of the Classical Greek, the second use of the verb in the potential indicative indicates the wrong option of the two presented.

To what Paul capitulates is stated next, the dative singular indirect object from the noun: *nomos* - “principle” and the possessive genitive from: *hamartia* - “sin.”

The principle of sin refers to Paul’s impulsive trends toward sin, human good, and evil. The flesh speaks of the fallen body of corruption which is the headquarters for the first husband with emphasis on the neurons of the brain. Since the problem originates in the body then it is obvious that the solution does not lie in the body but in the soul. The solution is referred to as the “principle of God” and consists of the nine-step recovery program which culminates in experiential sanctification.

Two mutually exclusive principles carry on a continuing battle inside the believer. The battle of wheel-tracks rages as the allurements of the sinful nature competes with the doctrines of the Holy Spirit for control over the believer’s soul. Which wheel-tracks win the battle is determined by the volition which is challenged to comply with the wishes of the second Husband, Jesus Christ, or capitulate to the temptations of the first husband, the sinful nature.

If the believer remains loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ, the siege is repulsed and spiritual advance resumes or is continued. If the believer submits to the temptations of the agent provocateurs, then the coup d’état is successful and he commits a ménage à trois with the first husband.

The ultimate in compliance with the principle of God is experiential sanctification; facilitated wheel-tracks of righteousness throughout the neural network.

The ramification for capitulation to the principle of the sinful nature is first, warning discipline in the form of goads and, second, intensified discipline in the form of chastisement.

In the battle of wheel-tracks the believer must decide to which husband he will submit. It must be one or the other. The two options were made clear by Paul in:

**Romans 6:16** - Do you not know that to whom you place yourselves under orders as slaves for the purpose of obedience, you are slaves to the one to whom you habitually render obedience [submission to facilitated memory traces], either to the sinful nature [facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness] resulting in the sin unto death, or habitual obedience to God [facilitated wheel-tracks of righteousness] because of justification.

Deliverance from the tyranny of the first husband is through faith alone in Christ alone. Rescue from liaisons with the first husband is through the nine-step recovery program.

The third paragraph of our study in “Paul’s Behavior Problem” is the “Battle of Wheel-tracks,” Romans 7:22, Romans 7:23, Romans 7:24, Romans 7:25, which is the fourth paragraph of Romans 7.

**Romans 7:22 (CTL)** - For along with other believers, I habitually delight in God's principles resident in the soul [**the inner man**].

**Romans 7:23** - But I see a different kind of principle in my body parts [**brain**] laying siege in a campaign against the principle of my mind [**nous**] and so making me a prisoner to the principle of the sinful nature which is located in my body parts.

**Romans 7:24** - I ... a miserable person! Who will rescue me from the body of this death?

**Romans 7:25** - Grace belongs to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then, on the one hand, with my mind [**nous**] I myself am obligated to comply with the principle of God [**wheel-tracks of righteousness**] but, on the other hand, with my flesh I myself impulsively capitulate to the principle of sin [**wheel-tracks of wickedness**].

We conclude our study of “Paul’s Behavior Problem” with a joke and a poem. First of all, the joke, the results of a research project conducted by famed neurologist Brett Turner: “Comparative Anatomy of Brains: Male, Female, Dog.” [Transparency]

The poem:

**Wotton, Henry. “The Character of a Happy Life.” In McGuffey's Fifth Eclectic Reader, edited by William H. McGuffey. Christian School Edition, p. 308:**

*How happy is he born and taught. That serveth not  
another's will; Whose armor is his honest thought,  
And simple truth his utmost skill!*

*Whose passions not his masters are, Whose soul is  
still prepared for death, United unto the worldly care  
Of public fame, or private breath;*

*Who envies none that chance doth raise, Or vice; who  
never understood*

*How deepest wounds are given by praise; Nor rules of  
state, but rules of good:*

*Who hath his life from rumors freed, Whose  
conscience is his strong retreat; Whose state can  
neither flatterers feed, Nor ruin make oppressors  
great;*

*Who God doth late and early pray, More of his  
grace than gifts to lend; And entertains the  
harmless day With a religious book or friend.*

*This man is freed from servile bands, Of hope to  
rise, or fear to fall;*

*Lord of himself, though not of lands; And having  
nothing, yet hath all.*