

Law of the mind

Romans 7:23 *“but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.”*

This Law of the mind has been on earth for a very long time. Genesis 6:5 *“The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.”* Tell me that we have improved? The other day I was listening to a crime show and in one episode they mentioned that (in St Louis, at that time) at-least 20 children were missing. The Jane doe the police found was hard to identify because there were so many children missing. It’s not ok that so many children are missing or dead. City after city and country after country can report thousands of missing or killed people. The Law of the mind is very much alive today.

So, what is the Law of the mind? It appears that Paul is connecting it to this thing called the law of sin. We looked at that law in Romans last week. It’s really two things. One is that we inherited sin from Adam and Eve. Paul says in Romans 3:23 *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* Secondly, the Law of God exposed our sin within the Ten Commandments. Romans 3:19 *“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.”* Because we are flesh and blood, sin plays a part in how we think in the mind.

When I went through divorce, I made a change in the first month: I went to church. In the mirror I was lost as a single man. My existence had been my family and wife. Who was I now? To compound that thought was God. My new religious adventure turned all I knew about life on this planet upside down. Yet, a war began to brew within me. Who was I in the past and who am I now? If I loved the worldly ways then how can I love the Godly ways too?

Paul talks about two laws at work in his members. This word “members” is a Greek translation for body parts. Sin is connected to the parts of our body. We think with the wrong parts. Our hands touch

or grab the wrong things. The feet go to the wrong places. What do we look at or talk about? Yet, each one of these members of our body are controlled by the mind. We desire something and go grab it. I lust for a girl so I use my body to have sex with her. Our body (members) is a tool that we use to do the bidding of our mind.

There I sat in church for months at war with my mind. A mind that covets the Law of sin. My body wanted to have ungodly things. Yet, as with Paul, there was another law within me that was waging war against the Law of sin. It is the Law of God. We love to be coddled. I have desires. People who say they are sinless are lying. We are within a fleshly body. It wants what it wants. Yet, I read the Bible and listen to the commands of God. I get God! I want to be clean and better than I am. Love and compassion wants to be ahead of my desires. There in-lays the war. You have twenty dollars to spare and want that special thing? Then you meet a poor person who needs twenty dollars for food. What to do?

The mind of God says open your eyes and heart to the things He is showing you. Those are your fleshly members! The things that love to look and touch all sorts of things. Yet, the Law of God asks you not to covet or have pride. The eyes and ears are saying “no way!” God asks you to say sorry. To admit that you’re a sinner. We all fall short of the glory of God. Yet, in our mind, we do think that we are not that bad. How many people believe that they are good enough to enter heaven?

In Romans 7:25 it says “*So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*” There are more verses where Paul is struggling within the sin war. An ancient Bible scholar named Athanasius says a great many things that have helped us understand God better. Yet, he equally believed that we had to give in to sin once in a while to satisfy the flesh. Everyone is at war in the mind over sin. Paul even says at one point do we just give in? he responds “Heaven forbid!” Yet, we have a mind and it plays a part in our daily lives.

The Law of God is the standard. Keep the Ten Commandments is the high bar. Remember that all have sinned and fallen short. Nobody can truly keep the Law of God on this side of heaven. Jesus

however, plays a huge role in the Law of the mind. Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Paul knew that in time you will find new strength to fight the war over sin. We are fallen creatures but we can win more than we lose. Little by little the Law of the mind will conform to the Law of God. The ways of Jesus and his teaching can transform us. We will love a little more. Care a little more, and be a little more like God intended us to be. Take a look at these last few verses.

Ephesians 4:20-23 *“But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”*

Romans 12:2 *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*