

**7:13-25 – Question 2:
Does the Law Cause our
Death? No, Sin Does. The
Law Drives Us to Christ**

KJV

13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the **law of God** after the **inward man**: 23 But I see **another law** in **my members**, warring against the **law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to the **law of sin** which is in **my members**.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So then **with the mind** I myself serve the **law of God**; but **with the flesh** the **law of sin**.

7:13: (Q & A) **Does the Law cause our death? No, sin does.** (In killing us through the good Law, sin is shown to be very sinful.)

7:14-23: Our inability to keep the Law shows sin is inside our flesh, ruling us

The Law is spiritual; I am fleshly, owned by sin (14-15)

I agree with the Law, so it's not really me who sins; sin, dwelling in my flesh, sins (16-17)

I desire to do right, but am unable (18-19)

This proves that sin dwells in me (20)

Concluding law*: *When I want to do right, the **law of sin** in my members/ **flesh** overpowers the **law of my mind/inner being** which delights in **God's Law** (21-23)*

7:24: Our resulting wretchedness drives us to Christ for deliverance!

7:25: Summary of conflict in the person ruled by sin

ESV

13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

22 For I delight in the **law of God**, in my **inner being**, 23 but I see in **my members** **another law** waging war against the **law of my mind** and making me captive to the **law of sin** that dwells in **my members**.

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself serve the **law of God with my mind**, but **with my flesh** I serve the **law of sin**.

* **Note about "law"**: Paul puns with the word "law" in 7:21-23, apparently using three different definitions of the word to refer to four different realities:

1. The overall principle outlined in vs. 21-23: *evil is present, overpowering us* (vs. 21a).
2. The commands (Mosaic Law) of God (vs. 22a).
3. The authority/power of sin ruling in our flesh (vs. 23a, 23c).
4. The authority/power of our minds trying to rule our actions (vs. 23b; implied in 22).