

Why do I keep sinning, Why do we keep sinning?

It's weird isn't it, we are forgiven by Jesus, we let Him deal with our sin, we Love Him for it yet we sin again. We know we shouldn't, we know God doesn't like it and its wrong, we even know we have the capacity to no do it, but we do.

Shouldn't we just not sin? Shouldn't it be easy.

Yep, but it aint.

It was tricky even for Paul. Look what He says.

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.

Yep I agree. It's tough. It doesn't make sense but it's the way it is.

The weird thing is that we are under a different set of guidelines. The law, what we know as the Old Testament regulations that include the 10 commandments, are not the guidelines any more – the relationship to Jesus is. That doesn't mean

the old laws aren't valuable it's just that the priority is the Jesus relationship not ticking boxes of behaviour.

Listen to this:

⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

So what is this living in the way of the Spirit?

²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

Hang on did we get rid of the law stuff?

Well it is like this, keep the law is logical, it is good for us. EG it is not good to murder someone because someone else gets upset and the person you murder probably doesn't like it either.

Even keeping the Sabbath – having a regular rest is good for you. I don't have the Sabbath on Saturday or Sunday – my Sabbath is Friday so give me space.

What about food laws? Well if you eat like a Jew you have a good diet.

What we need to recognise is that the law is pretty much a common sense guide to life. Sure there is some weird stuff in there but hey read it and see if there is anything inherently wrong. You won't find anything. Its good.

But do we delight in the law? Or do we try to get get away with stuff.

Change you thinking – love God's laws. Read them to find out what is a better option for life.

¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Now most of this passage is talking about how crazy it is to still sin but we need to realise that this whole thing is about living a life of connection to Jesus. It is saying – yep you sin but Jesus still has your back.

The passage points out reality. Don't you just love the way the bible is so realistic – it doesn't say everything will be fine and rosy. Paul reiterates it in

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.

It points our life as a Christian is tough, it is conflicting to our thought processes, and frustrating at times.

BUT

We have this new format for life. The new way of the Spirit.

Living with connection to God.

Let me refer you to another passage.

2 Peter 1:3-8 (ESV)

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,
⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now look carefully here.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

A couple of things about living in connection to God.

1. Supplement. Add to it.
2. The list is weird – Starts with faith and ends up with love.
I thought all you need is love?
3. The list is a process. You are not expected to nail it from day one~!!!!
4. It is all practicable! It takes work. Living in connection with God is more than just a spiritual thing, it is a physical, emotional, social as well as spiritual process of development.