

ROMANS 7

in the Language of Psychology and the Bible

ROM 7:5-7 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

ROM 7:8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

ROM 7:14-18 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

ROM 7:22-23 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

ROM 7:25b So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

For when we were controlled by the *sarx*, the archetypal passions and discomforts of the wounded and angry child parts within (ie. those parts that are the result of the sin principle operating within our lower unconscious), were aroused by the law and its internalization, the critical parent parts or law-based conscience (instinctual superego). This inner warfare bore the fruit of inner fragmentation and death. ⁶But now, by your ego consciousness dying to and disidentifying with the *sarx* which once bound it, we have been released from the law and its harsh servant, the legalistic conscience. We can now serve in the new way, guided by the higher unconscious and spirit, rather than the old way of the written code.

(Under the old way), ⁸the wounded and angry parts of my *sarx* seized the chance to rebel against the repressions of the immature, legalistic conscience, and the very thing that the conscience was trying to repress in me agitatedly sprang forth and produced uncontrollably compelling desires in my consciousness. For apart from the agitation caused by the repressive conscience and law, our wounded *sarx* is dormant and outside of our awareness.

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but my unaided ego is unspiritual and sold as a slave to the archetypal sin principle operative in the *sarx*. My ego doesn't understand its own actions. For my ego decides to do something, but my *sarx* inhibits it. My ego decides not to do something, but the *sarx* urges override my good intentions. ¹⁷As it is, it is no longer my ego's will who does it, but the sin principle alive in the will of my personified *sarx* complexes. For I know nothing good live in me, that is, in my *sarx*.

²²In one part of my inner being (*eso anthropos*) I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the parts of my psyche waging war against the law of my *nous* and making me a prisoner of the law of sin within me.

^{25b}So then I myself in my *nous* am a slave to God's law, but in the *sarx*, a slave to the law of sin.