

<b>My Old Sinful Nature versus My New Righteous Nature</b> <i>Romans 7:1-25</i>			
<b>Vs.</b>	<b>The Law and Our Old Sinful Nature</b>	<b>Vs.</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit and Our New Righteous Nature</b>
1	The law has authority over a man only as long as he lives.		
2	For example, a married woman is bound to her husband by the law only as long as he is alive.	2	If he dies, she is released from the (requirements of) the law of marriage... [We have to die to the demands of our old sinful nature in order to be free to fulfill the desires of our new righteous nature].
		3	If he dies, she is released.
4	You died to the law through the body of Christ.	4	You / we died to the law through the body of Christ [our union with Him in His death].
5	We were controlled by the sinful nature; sinful passions were at work in our bodies, being aroused and stimulated by the law; we bore fruit for death.	4	You / we belong to another, to Christ, that we might bear fruit to God. [By living according to / being controlled by the Holy Spirit and our new righteous nature].
		6	By dying to what once bound us (the law), we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, not in the old way of the written code.
<b>The Relationship Between the Law and Sin (vss. 7-13)</b>			
7	Is the law sin? Certainly not! I would not have known what sin was except through the law.		<b>Question</b> / Answer (see Answer in verse 12).
8	Sin seized the opportunity afforded by the law to produce in me every kind of (evil) desire. Apart from the law, sin is dead.		[Sin appeals to my old sinful nature and tempts me to break God's laws].
9	Once I was alive apart from the law; when the law came, sin (my sinful nature) sprang to life and I died.		[The law reveals how far short I fall of fulfilling God's standards; it reveals my sinfulness].
10	The law that was intended to bring life actually brought death.		
11	Sin deceived me, and through the law put me to death.		
12	The law is holy, righteous and good.		<b>Answer.</b>
13	Did the law become death to me? By no means! Rather it was sin that effected my death through the law. The law enabled me to recognize sin as utterly sinful.		[It wasn't the law that put me to death—it was my sinful nature. The law served to magnify the death that was already in me due to sin].
<b>The Struggle Between the Old and New Natures (vss. 14-25)</b>			
14	The law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.		[My sinful nature enslaves me to the bondage of sin].

15	I do not understand what I do. What I want to do [in my new nature] I do not do; what I hate, I do [because of my sinful nature].		[The conflict between the old and new natures and the resulting confusion].
16	If I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.		[My new righteous nature recognizes that the law is good].
17	It is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me [my sinful nature].		
18	I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I have the desire to do what is good [in my new nature], but I cannot carry it out. [My old nature overcomes my new nature].		
19	What I do is not the good I want to do [in my new nature]; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing [my sinful nature overcomes my new nature].		
20	If I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it [my new nature does not lead me to sin], but it is sin living in me [my sinful nature] that does it.		[Paul sees his new nature as his essential self, his real self. The new nature is his primary identity in Christ].
21	I find this law at work: When I want to do good [my new nature], evil [my sinful nature] is right there with me.		
22	In my inner being [my new nature] I delight in God's law.		
23	I see another law [my sinful nature] at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind [my new nature] and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.		
24	What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death [my sinful nature]?		
25	Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!		[Christ can deliver me from the power and control of my old sinful nature].
25	So then, I myself in my mind [my new nature] am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.		[My sinful nature submits and makes me a slave to the law of sin; it yields to the temptations presented to me by sin].

Verses 1-6 – "law" used 8 times.

Verses 7-25 – "law" used 15 times.

Verses 7-25 – "sin" used 14 times.

Verses 5-25 – "sinful" used 5 times.