

OUR BIGGEST BATTLE

January 17, 2021 • Romans 7:15-25
Sequim Community Church - Dr. Scott E. Koenigsaecker

INTRODUCTION:

A. The cause of our "inner battle" is our two natures – the new and the old.

The trouble [the battle] is with me, for I am all too human...I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind...In my mind I really want to obey God's law [our new nature], but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.
— Romans 7:14, 23-24

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus and because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.
— Romans 8:1-2

B. *...throw off your old sinful nature...Instead...put on your new nature...* Ephesians 4:22-23

C. *...for you have stripped off your old sinful nature...Put on your new nature and be renewed...*
— Colossians 3:10

I. IT IS A COSTLY BATTLE

A. Our inner battle is confusing.

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it.
— Romans 7:15

B. Our guilty conscience [shame and guilt] points our inner battle.

But I know that what I am doing is wrong...
— Romans 7:16

C. If we don't battle, our sin will defeat us.

...it is the sin living within me that [makes me sin].
— Romans 7:17

D. Then we become self-condemning.

And I know that nothing good lives in me...[only] my sinful nature.
— Romans 7:18a

E. Self-condemnation leads to frustration, discouragement—even despair.

I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway....This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still in me.
— Romans 7:19 & 23

II. GOD'S BATTLE PLAN FOR VICTORY

A. Keep putting Christ first each and every day.

***Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?
Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.***
— Romans 7:24

B. Detect and disarm the lie I have been believing and living.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
— I John 1:8

"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
— John 8:32

C. Share your struggle with another.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you.
— James 5:16

CONCLUSION: