



# **Romans 1-8**

**Positional Sanctification**

# ROMANS

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE	THE THREE TYPES OF SINNERS	THE THREE TENSES OF SALVATION	
		JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
1:1-17	1:18-3:20	3:21-5:21	6-8
Accountable for the Gospel 1:1-5	The Immoral Sinner 1:18-32	Justification Explained 3:21-31	Sanctification Positional 6:1-10
Addressees The Romans 1:6-7	The Moral Sinner 2:1-16	Justification Exemplified 4:1-25	Sanctification Practical 6:11-8:17
Aspirations in the Gospel 1:8-15	The Religious Sinner 2:17-3:8	Justification's End Results 5:1-11	
Acclamation of the Gospel: <i>Salvation to all who believe</i> 1:16-17	Conclusion: <i>All Are Sinners</i> 3:9-20	Identification: <i>In Adam All Die</i> <i>In Christ All Live</i> 5:11-21	

The Justice of God Revealed

# Positional Sanctification

J. Romans 7:14-25 – Practical ramifications of positional sanctification: A common, yet failed, way to live the Christian life as a believer

1. Romans 7:14 – *We know!* According to Paul, we know, but do we really?

# Positional Sanctification

- a) Romans 7:14a – The Law is spiritual, or divine, with nothing flawed or fleshly to it.
- b) Romans 7:14b – *I am of flesh* is better said *I am fleshly* (Greek: SARKIKOS).

# Positional Sanctification

- 1) Paul was not saying that he is walking according to the flesh as he wrote.
- 2) Paul was not writing of his past life; otherwise, he would have stated it the same way as in verse 5: *while we were in the flesh*.

# Positional Sanctification

- 3) Paul was not speaking of the spiritual Christian or the spirit-filled Christian life. He did not mention the Spirit of God in this passage. Romans 7:14-25
- 4) *Sold into bondage to sin...* He was declaring what happens when we are sold out, or betrayed, by our own sin natures.

# Positional Sanctification

- c) Romans 7:14c – *I am fleshly, sold into bondage to sin...* would be better understood: *I am fleshly when I am sold into bondage by the sin nature.*
- 1) We can conclude that Paul referred to the believer's life under the domination of the sin nature deprived of the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Positional Sanctification

- 2) This sad saga describes the believer sold into bondage by the sin nature.
- 3) Such a life is not lived by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who indwells us with the Holy Spirit but rather by the sin nature's power only. Galatians 2:20, 3:3



# Positional Sanctification

- d) Did you know that when you walk by means of the sin nature, the members of your body get used by it, and at that moment you are “fleshly” Galatians 5:17
- e) You should know that as a believer you are never in the flesh (compare Romans 7:5 and Romans 8:8), but you can easily walk according to the flesh.

# Positional Sanctification

2. Romans 7:15-16 – ***We're Perplexed!*** If you walk by the **flesh** in your Christian life, you will reap confusion!

a) Romans 7:15 – *Why do I do what I do?* Betrayed by the sin nature, Paul confessed that he did **not** *understand* what was happening in his life.

# Positional Sanctification

- 1) *I am not practicing what I would like to do.*
- 2) *I am doing the very thing I hate.*  
Remember, Paul was a believer.

# Positional Sanctification

- b) Romans 7:16 – Paul fully agreed with the Law because
  - 1) “I do the things that I don’t want to do.” (This shows he had a new nature.)
  - 2) “I agree with the Law and confess that it is right in what it says.”

# Positional Sanctification

3. Romans 7:17-23 – **We Understand, But!**  
Paul really did know what was happening.
  - a) Romans 7:17 – It is not me sinning; rather it is sin that dwells in me (the sin nature) that is doing it.
  - b) Paul was not shirking his responsibility. He was confirming that, obviously, his new nature was not causing him to sin.

# Positional Sanctification

- c) Romans 7:17b – *The sin that indwells me is none other than the sin nature.*
- d) Romans 7:18 – I know that in my flesh there dwells not one good thing.

# Positional Sanctification

- 1) Paul's new nature desired to do what was good (1 John 3:9), but the doing of that good was not present when he relied on the flesh and not on the Spirit.
- 2) The power to do good comes from the Spirit of God, but Paul wrote here of the Christian who is betrayed by his sinful nature.

# Positional Sanctification

- e) Romans 7:18b – He argued from the perspective of one walking by human effort, not divine power.
- 1) Romans 7:19a – The good that I want to do, I end up not doing.



# Positional Sanctification

- 2) Romans 7:19b – The evil that I do not want to do, I end up doing.
- 3) Romans 7:20 – If I am doing the very things that I do not want to do, it is my sin nature, the *sin which dwells in me*, that is doing the evil, not my new nature.

# Positional Sanctification

- f) Romans 7:21-22 – **Principle:** Even though I want to do good, evil is present in me.
- 1) Romans 7:21 – The sin nature that dwells in me wants to do that which is evil.
- 2) Romans 7:22 – The new nature, the inner man, wants to do that which is good. Ephesians 3:16

# Positional Sanctification

g) Romans 7:23 – In my new nature (the inner man), I joyfully want to do what is correct, but something else in me wages war in the members of my body.

Galatians 5:17

1) Romans 7:23a – War is being waged against the law of my mind (the principle of right and wrong that I know I should act on).