

# The Civil War of the Soul

## I. "One way" (the exit out of Boulder Morty's)

- My ought to says- It's illegal • My Want to says- But I've never been caught
- My ought to reminds- The law is the law • My want to counters- But the law isn't for good drivers like me

### A. Before I knew the law I was at peace...

1. Now that I know the law an insurrection has occurred
2. I'm torn
3. I know what to do
4. On the other hand I don't want to do it
5. My eyes read the sign "do not enter" but I don't want to obey
6. What I should do and end up doing are two different matters •
7. I was better off not knowing the law.

### B. Sound familiar?

1. Before coming to Christ we all had our shortcuts
  - a. Immorality to pleasure
  - b. Cheating to success
  - c. Boasting to popularity
  - d. Lying to power
2. Than we found Christ/ found grace... (then we saw the signs)

#### 3. Has it happened to you... You got a hot temper and then read

*"But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. **Matt. 5:22***

#### 4. You've got wandering eyes and then read...

*"anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." **Matt 5:28***

#### 5. You tend to exaggerate to make your point and then discover...

*"Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." **Matt 5:37***

#### 6. You enjoy letting people see your generosity and then read...

*"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing," **Matt. 6:3***

#### 7. You have a habit of categorizing people into neat boxes and then hear Jesus say...

*"Do not judge, or you too will be judged." **Matthew 7:1***

### C. All these years you've been taking the shortcut and you never saw the "do not enter" sign

1. It would have been easier to have never seen the sign, but now the law has been revealed
2. So what do you do?

### D. . Your battle is identical to that of the Apostle Paul (**Rom. 7:14-23**)

## II. The civil war of the soul & the flesh

### A. How welcomed is Paul's confession!

1. Why do I say yes to God one day and then say yes to Satan the next?
2. Once I know God's commands, why am I not always eager to obey them?
3. Shouldn't these struggles cease now that I see the sign?
4. Could it mean that I'm really not saved?

a. These are really the questions of Romans 7 and for many Christians...

**Story-**

b. A young man comes into my office and he's been cheating on his wife...

-I think of the red-bird flying into the window and then I think about this man crying

-He claims he know's what he should do but he claims he can't!

### B. Maybe you've hit your head against the wall-- but now you've seen the sign

- You have a war to wage

**Remember these two truths about grace as you enter the battle**

1. He still claims you.
  - a. Satan will challenge you in this... (God is tired of your lies)
  - b. Satan convinces us that we don't deserve His forgiveness  
**If we deserved it it wouldn't be forgiveness**
  - c. Didn't Jesus know every sin you've committed and will ever commit and accepted you anyway?
  - d. Paul reflects his own life in Rom. 7:14-25 (Wretched man I am)
  - e. Evil is right there with me. **Rom 7:21**
  - f. When we try to do good Satan tries to destroy
2. He still guides you
  - a. Our foundation is the Word of God
  - b. Our tendency is to question God's word while under pressure like the "do not enter" sign
  - c. But Paul reminds us that the Law is holy, and right, and good. **Rom 7:12**
  - d. Sort of like the city- The "do not enter" is for the public's good/convenience... best for the city/best for me... safe/quick... not for my please/safety
  - e. God's laws are for our protection/ not pleasure

**Conclusion: The One who saved us first is there to save us still**

- A. Grumpy, bad temper, bad mood doesn't disqualify from the Book of Life

**This is the message of grace (Rom. 8:1,-4)**

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