



Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Romans 7:7-25

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The inside story behind *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, by Robert Louis Stephenson.

Many believers struggle with an understanding of the battle within, thinking that they're poor Christians, and that they're the only person who wrestles with the old sin nature. So, what is the answer? Three approaches to deal with sin:

I. We Attempt to Minimize Sin (7-13)

A. The Contemporary View of Sin

1. "No such thing."
2. "No big deal."

B. The Bible's View of Sin

1. A big deal.

Jeremiah stated that the human heart is "deceitful above all things and is desperately wicked." Words synonymous with "sin" are vileness, corruption, cursed, and rebellion, all resulting in death. In Romans 1:28–32 notice the word depraved or depravity. What does that mean?

2. Sin is Exposed by God's Law. (7-12)

Romans 7:13b (NIV) ...so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.
(NLV) The Law was given, so that "we can see how terrible sin really is."

II. We Attempt to Manage Sin (14-24)

A. Experts in Sin Management

The name "Pharisee" comes from an Aramaic word which means to separate, divide or distinguish. They were experts in sin management. Spiritual pride is often the result.

B. Miserable Failures

1. Paul's battle

2. Our battle

C.S. Lewis said, “No man knows how bad he is, until he has tried to be good.”

(NLT) ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? (NIV) ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

III. Master Sin through Jesus (25)

A. Understand the Theology of the Issue

Salvation is Past, Present and Future = Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification

B. Understand the Heart of the Issue - *What Works for Me*

1. Everything is based upon my relationship with Christ
2. Daily surrender

Hebrews 4:16—Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

3. Daily battle

Conclusion

I have an assignment for everyone this week. Keep a daily log of areas where you're wrestling with sin. Look for:

- Are you becoming isolated (or distanced relationally)? Sin wants to divide and conquer; it wants us to think of people as the enemy. The Holy Spirit wants to bring it into the light, sin wants to push you further into the dark.
- Are you becoming numb to sin, or feeling bland in your spiritual walk? Sin wants to take the joy out of life.
- Are you justifying or renaming wrong behavior? If you are, you probably will have a difficult time recognizing that.
- Are your emotions working against you? Anger, frustration, etc. can be used for good, but can also cause great harm.