



The Trouble With Tribbles

Romans 7:14-25

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Paul's personal struggle with sin (verse 14)

1. What does Paul mean by *"the law is spiritual"* and *"I am of the flesh"*?
2. How are these two (spirit and flesh) in conflict with each other?
3. Being *"sold under sin"* has the idea of *"being sold to be a slave subject to the mastery of sin."* Most of us don't like to think of ourselves as being in that kind of "bondage" to sin. Yet, how does Paul's honest imagery illustrate the influence sin has over our lives?
4. Can you relate to the personal struggle that Paul is sharing with us?

The struggle in our mind (verses 15-17)

1. Even though Paul received a new nature when he believed in Jesus Christ, his "flesh" seems to have a mind of its own. What does Paul mean by, *"I do not understand my own actions"*?
2. How is it possible to love the very thing that we hate?
3. Do you ever experience this confusion?
4. How can Philippians 4:8 help us to deal with our addiction to sin?

The struggle with our will (verses 18-20)

1. What is it that Paul desires (wills)?
2. Anyone of has suffered with an addictive dependence will agree that the craving is never far away. Even years after "kicking the habit" the longing can creep back into our desires. How is our addiction to sin an ongoing battle of our will?
3. How can Paul's teaching in Philippians 3:8-11 help us to deal with our addiction to sin?

What Paul found (verses 21-23)

1. Despite Paul's efforts to "do right" what reality has he found?
2. What does Paul mean by the law of sin *"dwells in my members"*?
3. Is there any self-improvement plan (effort to do right) that we can pursue which will deal with the root cause of our sin? Why or why not?

Paul's conclusion (verse 24)

1. "Wretched" translates a Greek word meaning "suffering, devastated, miserable." How can a man who intimately knew God come to describe himself as "wretched"?
2. Do you ever feel "wretched"?

Paul's hope (verse 25)

1. In the midst of his "wretchedness" what hope has Paul found?
2. How might Paul's hope be your hope as you go through this next week?

TAKE HOME QUESTION: If you had to pick just one insight from this study that speaks specifically to you, what would it be? Why? How do you plan to respond to it this week?