

The Broken Law

Missing the Mark



"Hamartia" (Khata) -- to miss the mark

"Torah" -- to hit the target

James 1: 13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own **evil desire** and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Genesis 2: 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were **pleasing to the eye** and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must **not eat** from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will **certainly die.**”

Romans 7: 7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I **would not have known** what sin was had it not been **for the law**. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” 8 But sin, **seizing the opportunity** afforded by the commandment, **produced in me** every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.

Romans 7: 9 Once I was alive apart from the law; but **when the commandment came, sin sprang to life** and I died. 10 I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. 11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, **deceived me**, and through the commandment put me to death. 12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Romans 7: 24 What a **wretched man** I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

It wasn't the fruit that produced the
sinful desire. It was the **PROHIBITION**.

Virtual objections don't **EXIST**.
They **INSIST**.

Paul's solution to desire:

LET EVERYTHING BE
PERMISSIBLE

1 **Corinthians 10: 23** “I have the right to do anything,”
you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have
the right to do anything”—but not everything is
constructive.

All things are **lawful** for me, but not all things are
helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all
things edify. (NKJV)

Paul understood that the prohibition (what he called "the Law") was not the **water** that extinguished excessive desire, but a **fuel** that fed it. The problem for Paul was not desire as such, but rather its morphing into an obsessive/excessive impulse through the introduction of a law--a law that tempts us to act immorally precisely by **demanding we act morally.**

Peter Rollins

Galatians 2: 15 “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles 16 know that a person is **not justified** by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 2: 17 “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! 18 If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.

Galatians 2: 19 “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.

Living by faith, **not by law**, in Jesus Christ is the beginning of living in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1: 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the **Spirit of wisdom** and revelation, so that you may **know him better**.

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