

Theology Bites: Man & Sin

Verse 13---The thesis:

- Our problem is not with God's Law, but our sin.
- Sin is what kills us, not the Law of God.
- The Law is very good, but I am very sinful.

3 Explanations to Prove His Thesis

First explanation: The Law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh (verses 14-17).

Second explanation: There is no good thing that dwells in my flesh (verses 18-20).

Third explanation: My mind delights in the Law of God but my flesh still serves the Law of sin (verses 21-25).

The Thesis: Our Problem Is Not with God's Law, But Our Sin.

Do not shift the blame on the cause of death from sin to the Law of God.

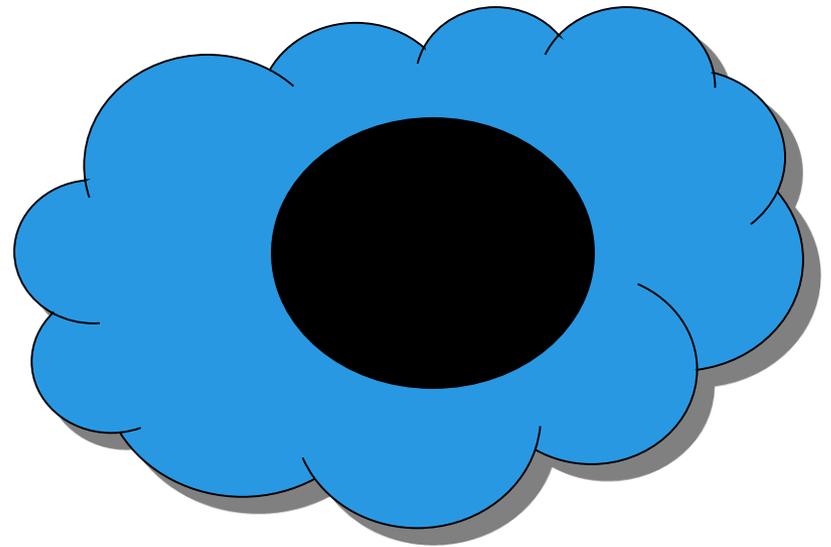
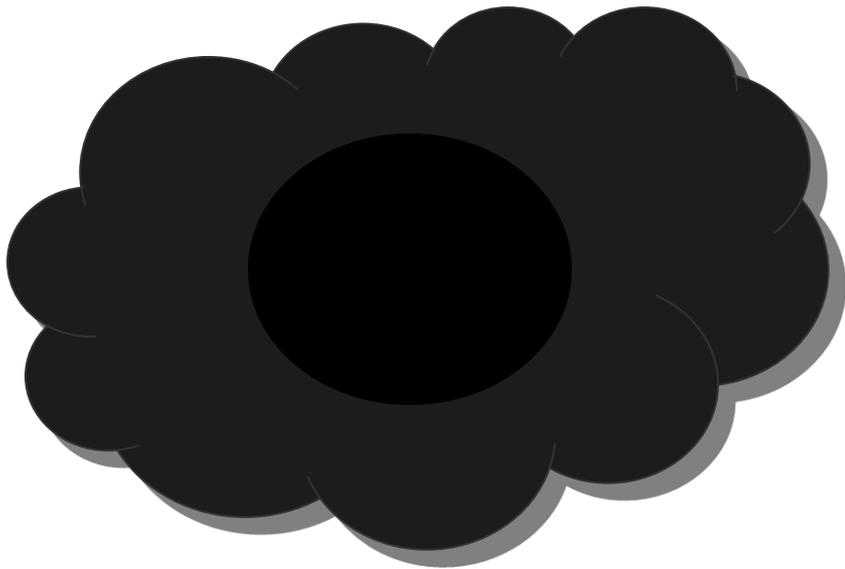
- “Guns don’t kill people, people kill people.”
- Don’t blame the gun for a person’s death.

Do not blame the Law just because the sin that is in your heart takes it and uses it to kill you.

- Put the responsibility where it belongs, on you and your sinfulness.

The Thesis: Our Problem Is Not with God's Law, But Our Sin.

God uses the goodness of the Law as a backdrop to reveal the sinfulness of sin.



The Thesis: Our Problem Is Not with God's Law, But Our Sin.

Principle to live by: Sin cannot leave unaffected anything it touches. Sin will always twist that thing, even if it is good and holy, to produce more sin.

The Law of God cannot destroy this great enemy. Holy and good though it is, it shall only become an instrument for greater sin.

First explanation: The Law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh (verses 14-17).

“Spiritual” speaks to the eternal quality of the Law. It is not corrupted by sin. It shall not pass away like this age we live in. It is good, righteous and holy because it is given by the Holy Spirit. Therefore it is spiritual in quality.

First explanation: The Law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh (verses 14-17).

Paul gives three contrasting qualities about himself that shows that sin is the problem, not the law:

- He is “of flesh” (14).
- He does not practice what he desires, rather what he hates (15).
- He has sin working and flowing within his being (17).

Second explanation: There is no good thing that dwells in my flesh (verses 18-20).

Paul progressively shows that it is sin, not the Law that is the problem.

- First explanation is that though there is a desire to carry out good works, the reality is that it doesn't happen (18).
- Second explanation is that he practices the very evil that he doesn't desire (19).
- And the conclusion is that sin is the problem with him (20).

Third explanation: My mind delights in the Law of God but my flesh still serves the Law of sin (verses 21-25).

The confession: evil is what drives him regardless of what he desires (21).

The development of the confession: The flesh contradicts and fights against the mind which is seeking to do right and good.

The conclusion: it is “I” not the “Law” that is wretched, for the sin within still is exerting its power upon me.