

“After all these years, why do you keep doing it?”

1. The tension of the Christian walk.

- “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” **Matthew 5:8**
- “The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” **Luke 6:45**

2. Tension in two verses:

- “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” **2 Corinthians 5:17**
- **V.**
- “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” **Romans 7:14-25**

3. From You Tube, a missionary explaining what it means to follow Christ ...

“We need to keep the commandments that Jesus Christ has given us. But He also gives us his grace, strength and power when we don’t have the strength ourselves. We need to do all we can do and He will help us the rest of the way.”

“It’s not possible for us to be perfect, so the little part – the things we can’t do, the things we can’t be perfect in – he helps us the rest of the way.”

“True repentance is when someone changes their acts, changes their life to follow Christ. So, if you truly repent for something that means you’re going to never do it again. So if you go back to doing it, you really don’t have true repentance.”

“We can’t totally abandon sin because we are not perfect, but we can try our best and Jesus Christ will help us. We can choose to always reject it when temptation comes, but we can’t totally put it off because we’re not perfect. The grace of God applies when we’ve given all we can. If I do everything I can then Christ will help me, but if not then I’m on my own.”

4. Romans 7:14-25

What I do	Why I do it
¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions.	¹⁴ ... I am of the flesh, sold under sin.
¹⁵ ... I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.	¹⁶ If I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

What I do ... cont.	Why I do it ... cont.
¹⁸ ... I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.	¹⁸ I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh ... ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.
²¹ I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.	²³ I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
²³ I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.	²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being
²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?	
²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.	

5. Short of the Age to Come, the only resolution is found in union with Christ

- a. "As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us." **Psalm 103:12**
 - i. We underestimate the extent of our forgiveness, the extent of God's holiness, the magnitude of our sin, and the power of our flesh.
- b. **"From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.** Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer." **2 Corinthians 5:16.**
 - i. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" **Colossians 1:27.**
 - ii. "I have been crucified with Christ..." **Galatians 2:20.**
 - iii. "Even when we were dead in our trespasses, (God) made us alive together with Christ" ... and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ..." **Ephesians 2:5,6.**
 - iv. St. Patrick's breastplate. *"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left ..."*
- c. **Summary of our union with, identification with Christ:**
 - i. "For to me to live is Christ ..." **Philippians 1:21**
 - ii. "Your life is hidden with Christ in God." **Colossians 3:3**
 - iii. "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." **Galatians 2:20.**
 - iv. "The love of Christ controls us ..." **2 Corinthians 5:14**
Controls = press together, confine, compel, afflicted with