

The Doctrine of the Rulership of Life

- I. **Introduction:** There are two potential rulers of the Real You. At any time the believer in Jesus Christ is being guided, taking his leads and cues from either the Holy Spirit or the OSN. It is up to the Church Age believer to choose the Indwelling Holy Spirit (IHS) as the ruler of his soul. This can only be done when the believer is in fellowship (FHS). When the believer is out of fellowship, he is under the direction of the OSN commonly referred to as “the flesh” as well as other titles. This is not to say that the believer doesn’t possess volition. Quite to the contrary, this Doctrine demonstrates that at any time, the believer/priest is choosing to submit to one of the two aforementioned potential rulers of the soul. The principle of rulership is found specifically in the theology of Paul’s letter to the Romans and is alluded to in various other passages (Rom. 5:14, 17; 6:12).
- II. Preliminary Considerations/Terminology
- A. **The Real You:** The Real You is not the physical body you see when looking into a mirror. Rather the Real You is the soul that was created in the image and likeness of God (James 3:8, 9). It is immaterial, invisible, and eternal as well as perfect and sinless. While we obviously think and experience sensation with our brain computers and central nervous system, our mentality as well as an emotion, self-consciousness, conscience and volition reside in the inner part or heart of the soul which is the Real You. It is the Real You that continues to exist long after the body is dead as it is eternal (Luke 16:19-31).
1. It is the volition of the Real You that determines if the IHS or the OSN will be your ruler (Rom. 8:5, 6).
 2. This is documented based on various exhortations in the Bible to walk by the Spirit and not by the flesh (Rom. 6:12, 13; Gal. 5:16, 17; 6:7, 8).
 3. Neither the OSN nor the IHS can usurp authority over the Real You apart from the volition of the Real You. Each will entice you, but only you decide which one to obey.
 4. Hence once again volition is demonstrated to be the key to the AC.
- B. **The Old Sin Nature (OSN):** At the point of conception, the OLD Sin Nature or was passed on genetically into every cell of each of our bodies via the genetics of our paternal parent (thanks dad!). He in turn receives an OSN from his father and so on and all the way back to Adam. It is for this reason that it is referred to as the “flesh” as well as similar titles (i.e. flesh parts, that which is in me, etc.). All human beings (w/ the exception of Jesus Christ) have an OSN, though it must be noted that the woman is only a carrier and does not pass on her OSN genetics onto the children (Rom. 5:14; I Cor. 15:22). It should also be noted that Adam and Eve were not created with an OSN, they each received one at the point that they sinned.
1. Hence, the moment we are born, we each have an OSN that has been in place for approximately nine months. This monster lives in the bodies of us all, literally in every cell of our bodies (Rom. 7:17-19 – ‘sin which dwells in me’).

2. It is completely evil and has an affinity for all sorts of sin, human good and false religion. So don't be too impressed with nice reversionists (Gal. 5:19-21).
 3. While the OSN is NOT part of the Real You, it has a plethora of opportunities to influence you via the central nervous system and the brain computer (BC – Rom. 7:20-24; II Pet. 2:9, 10 – ‘Corrupt desires’ – OSN has a will).
 4. It is for this reason that the heart is said to be “sick” and “deceitful” (Jer. 17:9; Prov. 28:26).
- C. Indwelling Holy Spirit (IHS): At the point of salvation, all Church Age believers are indwelled by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also said to “fill” the believer at the point of Salvation.
1. When the believer/priest is filled with the Holy Spirit he is also said to be “led by the Spirit”. The Holy Spirit leads the believer based on the mind of Christ resident in the believer's soul (Ps. 143:10).
 2. However this ministry of the Holy Spirit only functions so long as the believer stirs clear of sinful activity. At the point that the Real You decides to no longer listen to the HIS but the OSN by committing sin, then the believer is no longer said to be filled by the H.S. but “quenching” or “grieving the H.S. (Eph. 4:30, 31; I Thess. 5:19).
 3. The believer who is out of FHS is still indwelt by the H.S. but the OSN is the one who is influencing the Real You at this point. Indeed, the believer who is out of FHS is literally said to be a slave of his OSN (Rom. 6:20-22; Gal. 4:8, 9).
 4. Hence while the believer is said to be promised freedom via lasciviousness, antinomianism, etc., he in reality becomes enslaved to his OSN (II Pet. 2:18, 19).
 5. It is only when the Real You utilizes volition to again allow the HIS to be the ruler of the soul via Rebound, that the believer is again filled with the H.S. and the IHS again takes the seat of rulership.
 6. The believer who is again FHS is no longer a slave of sin, but a slave to righteousness (Rom. 6:16-20).
 7. The mechanic of receiving back the FHS is Rebound (I John 1:5-2:1).
 8. While the believer is out of fellowship, the H.S. will exhort him to Rebound/apply BD. When the believer is in FHS, the OSN will entice him to sin.
 9. It must be noted that the solicitation or temptation of the OSN is not, in and of itself sinful. It is only at the point that the Real You chooses to go with the OSN that sin is conceived (James 1:14, 15).
 10. Hence the two potential rulers are constantly opposing each other, vying for rulership position and seeking to influence the Real You (Gal. 5:17 – where the present, active, subjunctive of ποιέω/poieo indicates potential).
 11. This ongoing battle is referred to as the internalized angelic conflict.
- D. The Old Self: This term refers to the believer who is out of fellowship and obeying his OSN. He is in essence acting just as he would as an unbeliever, hence the term. He is not only led but literally enslaved to his OSN (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22, Col 3:9).
- E. The New Self: This term refers to the believer who is in FHS and obeying the Holy Spirit. As the believer grows in grace under BD, the H.S. literally constructs a new person or “inner man” built out of B.D. the New Self functions along the lines of Bible Doctrine in the soul which is the basis of the Holy Spirit's leads, cues exhortations, etc. Hence he is indeed a “new creature” (Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10 cf. II Cor. 5:17).

- F. The Real You determines who the ruler is of one's life at any given point in time.
1. The believer is exhorted to walk by the Spirit and not by the flesh (Gal. 5:16).
 2. We are the present the members of our bodies to God the Holy Spirit as instruments of righteousness rather than to the OSN as instruments of unrighteousness (rom. 6:13-19).
 3. Neither the HIS nor the OSN can usurp authority over the Real You apart from you volitionally choosing to allow either of them to rule you.
 4. However it must be noted that there is not neutral ground in the AC (no spiritual Switzerland!!!). You cannot serve two masters (Luke 16:13).
 5. The Holy Spirit will exhort, reprove, incite, stimulate and rebuke while the OSN will lust, rage salivate and entice. These two are completely hostile to each other (Rom. 8:5-10).
- III. The OSN ruler the Real You when the believer is out of FHS as well as the souls of all unbelievers.
- A. The OSN is programmed with sin, false doctrine and human good. Hence even when the unbeliever or believer who is out of FHS is acting morally and correctly, it is STILL a product of the OSN, human good (which is evil and thus will be burned up at the Bema – II Cor. 5:10).
 - B. The unbeliever as well as the believer out of FHS cannot please God (Rom. 8:5; cp. I Cor. 3:11-15).
 - C. The OSN is satanically inspired and completely antagonistic to God's plan (Matt. 16:21-23).
 - D. Indeed, Satan rules the world through the indwelling OSN. Hence, when the believer is under the rulership of the OSN, he is a pawn of Stan (Eph. 2:1-3; I John 3:7, 8 cf. Acts 5:3-5 I Tim. 5:14, 15).
 - E. For the believer, the OSN is placed in a position of ruler ship when the Real You volitionally chooses to commit sin (mental attitude, verbal over or sin of omission – Rom. 7:9- *temporal death in view*).
 - F. The Apostle Paul used himself as an example to illustrate this process (Rom. 7:7-25).
 1. Sin is technically used throughout this passage in reference to Paul's OSN as the word for sin, ἁμαρτία/harmaritia is used in the singular with the definite article throughout. Hence his OSN is the agent of action based on Paul volitionally choosing to place it in the position of rulership (v. 8).
 2. At the point that he committed sin (in this case mental attitude lust of "all kinds"). The OSN came alive and Paul died temporally (vv. 9 & 10).
 3. Again, it is the OSN, "sin" that produced temporal death in Paul (vv. 11 – 13).
 4. Paul makes it very clear that while he was out of fellowship, he was literally in bondage to his OSN (v. 14).
 5. While he still has volition, he is under the direction of the OSN. Everything he produced in this state is evil (sin or human good). Indeed, he is doing the very thing that the adjusted believer hates, yet OSN makes it seem so appealing. It is the OSN that is completely ruling him (vv. 15 – 17).

6. Paul states that “nothing good” dwells in his flesh. This is another reference to the OSN which indwells all people from the cradle to the grave in our physical bodies (v. 18).
 7. Under this condition, Paul, is not doing the thing that he wants to do (Apply BD in FHS!). He is instead in a condition of temporal death, a slave to his OSN (vv. 19 – 21).
 8. He recognizes BD, the “inner man” for what it is. However under his OSN he can only produce sin and human good. The OSN operates under a “different law” in his body. Indeed, it has made him a prisoner in the enemy’s camp and therefore sidelined in the AC (v. 22, 23).
 9. While out of fellowship, he is operating as the Old Self whom Paul refers to as the “wretched man”. For although he is in union with Christ positionally, he is out of fellowship and NOT in union with Christ experientially (v. 24).
 10. What can save Paul from this condition? The perfect work of Jesus Christ! When he rebounds he is automatically forgiven due to Christ’s work on the cross (v. 25a).
 11. However on any given day, Paul is found serving both God and his OSN (v. 25b – present, active indicative of δουλεύω/douleuo “keep on serving”).
- G. The believer who is being ruled by his OSN is said to be:
1. A slave to sin (Rom. 6:6).
 2. Dead (Rom. 7:11).
 3. A prisoner of the law of sin (Rom. 7:23).
 4. Fleshly (I Cor. 3:3).
 5. A slave to the elemental and worthless things (Gal. 4:8).
 6. Fornicating with the OSN lust trend (James 1:14).
- H. Synonyms for the OSN
1. Iniquity (Psa. 51:5).
 2. Body of sin (Rom. 6:6).
 3. Sin in the singular with or w/o the d.a (Rom. 7:17).
 4. Body of death (Rom. 7:24).
 5. The flesh (Rom. 8:8).
- I. As a prisoner or slave of sin, the believer is ruled by the OSN and enters into evil. He is at this point a servant of Satan who rules the world through the OSN (Col. 1:12, 13; I John 1:6, 2:11). He then has proclivity for:
1. Sin, the “fruits of flesh” (Gal. 5:19-21).
 2. Human good (Isa. 64:6; Heb. 6:1; 9:14; I John 3:12).
 3. Doctrines of demons (Eph. 4:14; I Tim. 4:1; I John 4:5, 6).
- IV. The believer is commanded to be in fellowship so that the Holy Spirit can Lead the Real You through your Christian Walk:
- A. God the Father, in His perfect plan, has provided the H.S. to be our source of power and direction.
 - B. Because God is not impressed with w/ human works, only those works done through the Holy Spirit are acceptable. God’s plan is based on Grace and human works are NEVER part of God’s grace plan.
 - C. Hence, the H.S. provides the necessary knowledge, power, help and guidance necessary for each of us to finish our course (Eph. 3:16 – 21).

- D. When the believer is in fellowship, the Holy Spirit...
1. Guides/directs believer (Rom. 8:14 cf. Acts 8:29; 10:19, 20; 13:2, 4).
 2. Helps the believer to recall Doctrine stored in his soul (Luke 12:11, 12; 14:26).
 3. Teaches Bible so the believer can understand it (John 14:26; I John 2:20, 27).
 4. Serves as a helper or advocate to the believer, helping us to understand and apply BD along our Christian walk (John 14:16, 17; 15:26; 16:7).
 5. Comforts/Encourages the believer (Acts 9:31).
 6. Build confidence in the believer (Act 4:31).
 7. Places the P-T with his right congregation (Acts 20:28).
 8. Testifies that we are god's children (Rom. 8:16, 17).
 9. Clarifies our prayers and delivers them before the throne of grace (Rom. 8:23-27; Eph. 6:18; Jude 1:20).
 10. Empowers (Rom 15:13).
 11. Sanctifies (Rom. 15:16).
 12. Sovereignly bestows at least one spiritual gift to every believer and then directs him on how and when to use it (Rom. 12:6-8; I Cor. 12:4-18; I Pet. 4:8-11).
 13. Enables the believer to attain inner happiness (I Thess. 1:6).
 14. Protects the believer from false doctrine (II Tim 1:14).
- E. When we are led by the Holy Spirit, we will receive various cues from Him based on Bible Doctrine resident in our souls. He will exhort us on what to do, what applications we ought to make, when to speak or remain silent. He will instruct us to forgive those who have wronged us, remind us of the importance of being in Bible Class, teach our human spirits while in Bible Class, indicate ways in which we can steer clear of evil, remind us of promises and commitments you need to keep, etc. (Psa. 143:10; Rom. 8:14).
- F. As the believer learns more and more Doctrine and grows in his commitment to apply BD while maintaining the FHS, he is said to possess certain traits which are called "fruits of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-24).
- G. As the believer grows in grace under bible Doctrine, he begins to be a completely different person. This is the "new man" that the H.S. constructs out of BD as we take more and more of the "mind of Christ" into our souls (Gal. 4:19; Col. 1:26, 27, cp. I Cor. 2:16; II Cor. 5:17).
- H. The pitfall is that any point, we may choose to engage in OSN activity whereby we revert to the Old Self governed by the OSN and essentially act as we would if we were unbelievers (Eph. 4:22).
- I. This is a principle that many Christians simply do not understand: That the believer under his OSN is capable of doing anything that the unbeliever does. This is why it is of utmost importance that the believer be fastidious with Rebound and work moment by moment to maintain the FHS thereby isolating the OSN.
- J. When we are led by the H.S. we are said to...
1. Not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).
 2. Fulfill the Law (Rom. 8:4).
 3. Present out body parts as instruments of righteousness (Rom. 6:13).
 4. Be alive from the dead (temporal death – Rom. 6:13).
 5. Be transformed into the image of the Lord (II Cor. 3:18).
 6. Be made new in the inner man (II Cor. 4:16).

7. Exhibit the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23).
 8. Putting to death or crucifying the OSN (Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24).
- K. Synonyms for this state include:
1. Alive (Rom. 6:13; 7:9).
 2. Slaves to righteousness (Rom. 6:16-18).
 3. Having put on the Inner Man (The 'new man' – Rom 7:22).
 4. Abiding by the law of the Spirit and life (Rom. 8:2).
 5. Having put on the Lord Jesus Christ (where the new man is construed out of BD – Rom. 13:14).
 6. Having judged the body rightly (and rebounded – I Cor. 11:29).
 7. Spiritual (I Cor. 2:14, 15).
 8. Walking by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16).
 9. Imitators of God (Eph. 5:1).
 10. Walking in love (Eph 5:2).
 11. Redeeming the time (Eph. 5:15, 16).
 12. Filled with the Holy Spirit (FHS – Eph. 5:18).
 13. Having put on the New Self (Eph. 4:24).
 14. Walking in love (I John 1:7ff).
- V. Mechanics of Spirituality and keeping the Holy Spirit in a position of rulership.
- A. Spirituality is accomplished by applying BD while in fellowship (FHS). It is not through keeping the law or any type of ritualism, legalism or pseudo-spirituality (Rom. 6:14 cf. Gal. 3:1-3).
 - B. Since the believer who is out of fellowship can only get back in by confessing his sins, it is of utmost importance that the believer/priest be fastidious with identifying his sins and utilizing Rebound (Eph. 5:15, 16; Tit. 3:8).
 - C. Only through the knowledge and application of Bible Doctrine can believers practice spirituality and hence walk in wisdom. Hence, being under face-to-face teaching on a consistent basis is imperative (Rom. 6:17, 18).
 - D. The Holy Spirit is only able to provide guidance to the believer based on Doctrine resident in his/her soul. Hence, missing class, not paying attention, listening out of FHS, being a hearer and not a doer, etc. is completely out of line and self destructive to one's Christian walk.
 - E. The issue for the believer who is out of fellowship is found in Eph 5:11-14 (aorist, active imperative of ἀνιστήμι/anistemi, "arise" in v. 14 – cp. Rom. 6:12, 13).
 - F. Whenever one ruler is the position of rulership, the other potential ruler is seeking to influence the Real You (Gal. 5:17).
 1. The flesh is hostile to ALL divine viewpoint (Rom. 8:7).
 2. Hence do not be surprised if your OSN starts to flare up when you begin to pray, listen in Bible class, have a positive believer exhort you regarding the truth, are trying to concentrate during the Lord's table, etc.
 3. The Holy Spirit hates the works of the flesh (Rom. 7:15).
 4. God the Father jealously desires for all believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit (James 4:5).

5. The believer out of fellowship is said to “set his mind on the things of the flesh” (sin, false doctrine & human good). . The believer who is in fellowship sets his mind on “the things of the Spirit” (Bible Doctrine – Rom. 8:5).
6. The mindset of the flesh cannot please God and is hostile to God (Rom. 8:6-8).

“That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (Eph. 4:22-24).