

**Link between the Sinful Nature and Its Function is the Lust Pattern, Romans 7:10-11**

**Romans 7:10 - That Commandment which points to eternal life [the Tenth Commandment]; the same was discovered by me pointing to spiritual death.**

Paul discovered that keeping the Tenth Commandment resulted in eternal life but that its real message pointed to spiritual death. If the Tenth Commandment prohibits man's lustful desires, then it becomes obvious that man does not innately possess eternal life. Therefore, the same Law which points to eternal life also points to spiritual death.

Paul discovered his spiritual death in the Order Code, specifically, the Tenth Commandment. It is there he discovered he had a lust pattern, a propensity toward sin, and the guilt of sins committed. As far as Paul was concerned, learning the truth from the Law about his lust pattern resulted in his death.

**Romans 7:11 - For the sinful nature, having seized the opportunity through the Tenth Commandment, deceived me and, through that same commandment, killed me.**

The first duty of the Mosaic Law is to reveal to the unbeliever that he has a problem. The problem is illustrated as a bad marriage between the unbeliever and his sinful nature. Apparently, the link between the sinful nature and its various functions of sin, human good, and evil is the lust pattern.

The way in which the Law revealed to Paul that he had a sinful nature was thorough the Tenth Commandment. As we have learned, lust is an inordinate, unrestrained, and selfish desire accompanied by intense passion to possess something. That "*something*" which one desires to possess may include power, approbation, authority, sex, possessions, money, promotion, political control, euphoria, or pleasure and a lust for revenge upon any and all who prevent its satisfaction.

Once the conscious mind realizes that lust is wrong, the tendency remains to still do it. Why?

First of all, the mandate comes from an establishment principle found in the Order Code of the Mosaic Law and may be understood by the unbeliever. It is the volition which decides whether to comply with or to reject the commandment. In making the decision the person's inventory of ideas includes a large backlog of experiences which have been facilitated into paths of least resistance.

Once the unbeliever learns that the basic motivation for his lifestyle is wrong, the tendency is to deny it. This is accomplished by the three arrogant skills: self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption.

There is a fundamental principle which describes the relationship between the sinful nature and any divine mandate: disobedience! The Law counsels the unbeliever that lust is wrong. The sinful nature counters with an even more intensified desire to appease its cravings. Pleasure denied becomes pleasure aggressively sought.

Regardless of how old the unbeliever happens to be when he understands that lust is wrong, he has spent his entire lifetime functioning under its allurements. It's not so much that the lust patterns are present but that they are facilitated.

The idea of changing your lifestyle in opposition to all you have ever known and done is not only difficult to face but even more difficult to alter. Reason? The lust pattern is the tendency of fallen man to place himself as top priority above all others and therefore to control all others for one's own personal benefit, amusement, profit, pleasure, and advancement.