

"Why is it So Tough to Obey?" Romans 7:7-25

You don't have to live the Christian life very long before you realize that real change, obedience, being who God wants you to be is extremely difficult when we try to do it on our own. However, the Apostle Paul reveals why it is so tough to obey and gives us insight on how then we shall live.

[Romans 7:7-25](#)

Three Powerful Enemies

1. The World (*kosmos*)

- A. Planet earth, the physical world ([Acts 17:24](#))
- B. Humankind, the human world ([John 3:16](#))
- C. Human culture as influenced by Satan ([1 John 2:15-17](#))

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

—1 John 2:15-17

2. The Devil (Adversary)

- A. Immortal creatures, angels, non-physical beings of incredible power and intelligence ([2 Chron 32:21](#); [Ps 148:2, 5](#); [Lk 20:36](#); [Eph 6:12](#))
- B. Fallen angels led by Satan ([Ezekiel 28:12-17](#))
- C. They want to destroy God's earthly people ([1 Pet 5:8](#); [Rev 12:7-17](#))

3. The Flesh

- A. Mortal, physical bodies ([1 Cor 15:39](#))
- B. Inherent desire and disposition towards sin that is present in all human beings, including believers ([Rom 7](#) and [Gal 5](#))