

# Romans 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

## Analysis

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**If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.**—  
Symphēmi (σύμφημι, "agree with/consent to") means to acknowledge jointly. The very fact that Paul does what he hates proves he agrees with law's goodness—his will aligns with law even when his performance falls short. This is crucial evidence for the regenerate interpretation: the unregenerate don't consent that law is good; they're hostile to God's law (Romans 8:7).

This verse demonstrates the regenerate heart's fundamental orientation toward God's standard despite failure to achieve it consistently. The problem isn't will-alignment (which regeneration accomplished) but power-deficit (which Spirit-empowerment addresses, chapter 8). The believer's struggle isn't whether to obey but how to accomplish the obedience desired.

## Historical Context

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Paul continues building his case that this conflict characterizes Christian, not pre-Christian, experience. Agreement with law's goodness marks regenerate hearts; the unregenerate mind is 'enmity against God' (8:7). This distinction matters enormously for pastoral care—believers struggling with sin need encouragement and power (Spirit), not regeneration (they have it).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that your struggle with sin actually evidences regenerate consent to God's law encourage you?
2. What's the difference between failing to achieve what you desire versus not desiring God's standard at all?
3. How might misdiagnosing regenerate struggle as unregenerate rebellion lead to either despair or works-righteousness?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰ	δὲ	οὐ	θέλω	τοῦτο	ποιῶ	σύμφημι	τῷ
If	then	which	not	I would	that	I do	I consent

G1487 G1161 G3739 G3756 G2309 G5124 G4160 G4852 G3588

νόμῳ	ὅτι	καλός
unto the law	that	it is good

G3551 G3754 G2570

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 7:12** (Word): Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

**Romans 7:14** (Word): For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

**1 Timothy 1:8** (Word): But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;

