

# Romans 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

## Analysis

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**Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**—Ouketi egō katergazomai auto (οὐκέτι ἐγὼ κατεργάζομαι αὐτό, "no longer I that work it") doesn't absolve responsibility but distinguishes the regenerate self (new identity in Christ) from indwelling sin (remaining corruption). Oikousa (οἰκοῦσα, "dwelling") present participle indicates ongoing residence—sin still occupies the believer but no longer defines identity.

This crucial distinction separates the Christian's core identity (united to Christ, justified, regenerate) from remaining sin (being progressively eradicated in sanctification). The believer is simultaneously saint (identity) and sinner (experience). This isn't excuse-making but proper theological anthropology: who I am in Christ versus what I still struggle with in the flesh. Romans 6:6's "old man crucified" describes positional death to sin's reign; chapter 7 describes experiential warfare with sin's remaining presence.

## Historical Context

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This verse has been misused to minimize personal responsibility for sin, but Paul's point is different: defining identity. He's not saying "sin makes me do it, so I'm not responsible." He's saying "my regenerate identity wars against indwelling sin; this conflict proves I'm not sin's willing servant but reluctant victim in these failures." This distinction grounds assurance during sanctification's long battle.

## Related Passages

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

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does distinguishing between your identity in Christ and indwelling sin help you fight sin without losing assurance?
2. What's the danger of either over-identifying with your remaining sin or denying its ongoing presence?
3. How might understanding sin as 'dwelling in' but not 'defining' you change your self-talk during spiritual failure?

## Interlinear Text

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νυνὶ δὲ οὐκέτι ἐγὼ κατεργάζομαι αὐτὸ οὐλλ' ή  
Now then G3765 I that do it but G3588  
G3570 G1161 G1473 G2716 G846 G235

οίκοῦσα ἐν ἐμοὶ ἀμαρτία  
that dwelleth in me sin  
G3611 G1722 G1698 G266

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 7:20** (Sin): Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

**Romans 7:18** (Parallel theme): For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

**2 Corinthians 8:12** (Parallel theme): For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

