

Romans 7:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Analysis

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man—Synēdomai gar tō nomō tou theou (συνήδομαι γὰρ τῷ νόμῳ τοῦ θεοῦ, "I rejoice together with the law of God") uses a compound verb indicating deep pleasure and agreement. Kata ton esō anthrōpon (κατὰ τὸν ἔσω ἄνθρωπον, "according to the inner man") describes the regenerate self—the new creation in Christ.

This verse decisively proves Paul describes regenerate experience. The unregenerate "receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:14) and cannot "delight in God's law"—such delight requires regeneration. The "inner man" is renewed by the Spirit (2 Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 3:16), producing genuine love for God's revealed will. This doesn't mean perfect obedience but authentic desire—the hallmark of new birth. Paul's struggle isn't whether to obey but how to overcome remaining resistance.

Historical Context

Reformed theology consistently identifies 'delight in God's law' as evidence of regeneration. The unregenerate may respect, fear, or externally obey law, but they don't 'delight' in it. This inner pleasure in God's will—despite imperfect performance—distinguishes Christian struggle from pre-Christian rebellion. Paul grounds assurance in regenerate affections, not perfect achievement.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What evidence do you see of genuine 'delight' in God's law despite imperfect obedience?
2. How does recognizing this delight as proof of regeneration encourage you during moral failure?
3. What's the difference between delighting in God's law and merely acknowledging its validity or fearing its penalties?

Interlinear Text

συνήδομαι γὰρ τῷ νόμῳ τοῦ θεοῦ κατὰ τὸν ἔσω
I delight For in the law of God after the inward
G4913 G1063 G3588 G3551 G2316 G2596 G3588 G2080

ἄνθρωπον

man
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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:2 (Word): But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 40:8 (Word): I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Psalms 119:35 (Word): Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

Job 23:12 (Word): Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Hebrews 8:10 (Word): For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

2 Corinthians 4:16 (Parallel theme): For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Psalms 119:92 (Word): Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

Psalms 119:16 (Word): I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

Psalms 119:174 (Word): I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

Psalms 119:167 (Parallel theme): My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.