

THE LINE OF
SCRIMMAGE

ROMANS 8:5



Herschel Walker

- The key to that great run was not Hershel Walker
- The key was the line of scrimmage
- Not even Hershel Walker could make an impact in the game unless he has an offensive line opening the holes to run through and block those trying to tackle him

Hershel Walker

- There is an old football saying that every football coach knows is the first truth of football
- The team that controls the line of scrimmage usually wins the game

There is a line of scrimmage in every life and whoever controls the line of scrimmage controls your life

- It is your mind
- **Genesis 3:1-5 NLT** 1 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

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- It is your mind
- **Genesis 3:1-5 NLT** 2 “Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. 3 “It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

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- It is your mind
- **Genesis 3:1-5 NLT** 4 “You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. 5 “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”
 - Do you see the line of scrimmage here?

There is a line of scrimmage in every life and whoever controls the line of scrimmage controls your life

- One side is God with all His truth instructing Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree in the middle of the garden
- On the other side is Satan telling them that God is a liar and holding back on them

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- **Genesis 3:6-7 NLT** 6 The woman was convinced – of what?
 - She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her.
 - Was there anything wrong with any of that?

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- Depends – if enjoying the beauty of God’s creation then no, but if considering to possess then yes?
 - So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame

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- She became convinced of the lie in her emotions and determined in her mind to do what her heart desired and that single decision to act brought pain and separation to herself and her family
- Notice, this desire was in the perfection of the garden before a single sin of mankind

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- God had given them the ability to choose as He has us today
- It was their conscience decision to reject God's truth and respond to Satan's word
- They rebelled against God's truth – called sin

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- Result was they lost the overt presence of God in their lives when cast out of His presence from the Garden of Eden
 - Overt - done or shown openly; plainly or readily apparent, not secret or hidden

The further mankind got away from God's overt presence the more sinful they became

- Cain and Able, Noah and the flood
- God provided the Law of Moses to provide mankind an image of who He is and what He demands for us to be in His presence
- Then God did the most marvelous thing by sending God the Son to pitch His tent with us so we can see and hear God's words again

God's overt presence is found in the person of Jesus Christ

- **Matthew 22:36-37 NIV** 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart (emotions/will) and with all your soul (eternal being) and with all your mind (decisions).”
 - Salvation has now come to sinful man, we are allowed back into the garden

The wonderful work of salvation

- **Romans 8:1 NIV** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
- **John 16:13 NIV** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
 - The overt presence of God is now in the lives of His children

The wonderful work of salvation

- **1st Corinthians 2:16 NIV** for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
- The line of scrimmage has now been reestablished in the life of every born-again child of God
- **Romans 8:5-8 NLT**

- **Romans 8:5-8 NLT** 5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

- **Romans 8:5-8 NLT** 7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. 8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

- **Micah 6:8 NIV** He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
- **Romans 8:8 NLT** That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.
- Why is this true?

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- **Romans 8:5a NLT** Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things
- The first question is what is the sinful nature?

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- The sin nature is that aspect in man that makes him rebellious against God. When we speak of the sin nature, we refer to the fact that we have a natural inclination to sin; given the choice to do God's will or our own, we will naturally choose to do our own thing.

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- It is the human value systems that stand in opposition to God's value system
- No one has to teach a child to lie or be selfish; rather, we go to great lengths to teach children to tell the truth and put others first
- Sinful behavior comes naturally

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- What does this sinful nature look like?
 - When you are blessed, the sinful nature produces pride: The sinful nature wants to take the credit.
 - When others succeed, the sinful nature produces envy: The sinful nature says, “It should have been me.”

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- What does this sinful nature look like?
 - When you do something good, the sinful nature is self-righteous: It says, “Look what I did!”
 - When you do something wrong, the sinful nature goes into denial: The sinful nature says, “It wasn’t me!”

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- What does this sinful nature look like?
 - When you suffer, the sinful nature indulges in self-pity.
 - When you don't get what you want, the sinful nature gets irritable, frustrated, and angry.
 - When your work is not recognized or appreciated, the sinful nature gets resentful.

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- What does this sinful nature look like?
 - When you are in a conflict the sinful nature produces self-justification: It says, “I’m right!”
 - When you hear about the love of God, the sinful nature produces unbelief: It will say, “That can’t be true!”

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- What does this sinful nature look like?
 - When you hear what the Bible says about sin, the sinful nature responds with evasion. You compare your sins to others and determine you are not so bad.

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- Notice the word Paul uses for its desire in our lives – to **dominate**
 - To dominate means to be in control or have the power to defeat
 - It longs to enslave you, take every bit of freedom away from you but make you think you are in control

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- Notice the word Paul uses for its desire in our lives – to **dominate**
 - It longs to leave you a spiritual beggar and leave you there for an eternity

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- **Romans 8:6a NLT** So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death
- **Romans 8:7 NLT** For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.

The sinful nature longs to dominate and separate you from the blessing God has prepared for you

- Your sinful nature will always take you where you do not want to go, farther than you thought possible leaving no trace back
- It will strip the blessing God had planned out of your life
- You see this in the life of Judas

The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- The good news of Jesus Christ is this - you are not hopeless or alone

The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- **Romans 8:5b NLT** but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit
- Notice the sinful nature dominates but the Holy Spirit **controls**

The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- Notice the sinful nature dominates but the Holy Spirit controls
 - Control is defined as to command, restrain, or to manage
 - Think of policies you have at work
 - They do not force you to adhere to them

The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- Notice the sinful nature dominates but the Holy Spirit controls
 - It is the company basically saying, “Here is how you are to be when working for our company.”
 - There can be consequences if you choose not to, but no force that makes you

The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- The truth of God's Word is given sinful man so we will know how to live in this sinful world to receive the overt presence of God in our lives
- To know how to live by applying the principles of God's Word to our daily lives and event
- To give us hope and strength to live as He defines

The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- All of this so God can bless our lives more than we can ask or even think – How?

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 - The overt presence of God in the lives of His children

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The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- **Romans 8:6b NLT** But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace
 - By yielding to the presence, power and truth of God's Spirit in you

The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- You must understand who you are as a born-again child of God
- You must grasp the sinfulness that is possible in you
- You must know the truth of God's Word
- Then you must yield to that truth and apply it to your daily lives

The new nature of the Holy Spirit longs to work within your brokenness with truth and power allowing you the ability to control your rebellious nature towards God

- God, this is what I feel or what I want to do but your Word tells me to think this way and trust you and that is what I choose to do now. Please give me the strength and courage to do so.
- We see this at work in the life of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

- **Romans 12:2 NLT** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then (and only then) you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
 - It is the only way to a good, pleasing and perfect life in a hostile world and a glorious eternity

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Announcements

- Wednesday, 7:00
- Starting to think about Trunk-n-Treat

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