

- And Sin Is A Very Harsh Master!
- And - Once Again - The Only Way Out:
- Is Death!
- Well - As We Come To Romans Chapter 7:
- We Find Another Description / Illustration Of The Lost:
- And That Is - If You Are Lost:
- You Are Even Like *A Spouse!*
- A Spouse Who Is Married To Sin!
- And - Like All Of The Others:
- The Only Way Out:
- Of This Violent And Abusive Relationship - By Law:
- Is Death!

4. And - This Is What We Will Find:

- In The First 6 Verses Of Romans 7 - Where Paul Writes:
 - “Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? / 2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. / 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. / 4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. / 5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. / 6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter!”
- Now - In These Verses:
 - Paul Is Offering Hope:
 - To Those Who *Were*:
 - In Those Kinds Of Relationships:
 - With Sin!

* So - Beginning In Verse 1 - We See:

1. *A Major Principle About The Law!*

- Because - All Of The Relationships He Described:
 - In Chapters 5-7 - Are Regulated:
 - By Law!
 - As A Subject Or A Citizen Of A Country:
 - You Have An Obligation:
 - To Abide By Its Laws!
 - When You Become A Soldier & Join The Military:
 - There Is A Code Of Justice:
 - That You Are Supposed To Follow!
 - If You Are A Servant:
 - There Are Rules That Govern Your Work & Your Wages!
 - Hours / Minimum!
 - And - Even When You Become A Spouse:
 - Your Marriage Is Recognized:
 - By The Government!
- But - What Do All Of These Relationships:
 - Have In Common? Look Again At:
 - 7:1 - “Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?”
 - Now - Even Though The Apostle Paul May Have The Old Testament Law In Mind:
 - This Principle Applies To All Laws!
 - And So - When Paul Writes This:
 - To His “Brethren” - He Is Writing:
 - To *All* Of The Christians In Rome:
 - And Not Just The Jewish Christians:
 - Because - They Would *All* Have Been Familiar With This

Fundamental Principle Of The Law!

- And That Principle Begins With:
- The Dominion Of The Law!
 - “The Law Hath Dominion Over A Man As Long As He Liveth!”
 - Now - We’ve Seen The Word “**Dominion**” Already In The Book Of Romans!
 - In 6:9 - We Are Told That:
 - “Death Hath No More **Dominion**” Over The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And - In 6:14 - We Are Told That:
 - “Sin Shall Not Have **Dominion**” Over Believers In Christ!
 - Here - We Are Told That:
 - “The Law Hath **Dominion** Over Man!”
 - So - There Is A Strength:
 - To The Law - Over Man!
 - And This Is True:
 - Whether The Law:
 - Is Man’s Law Or God’s Law!
 - And - This Is All According To God’s Design!
 - Even In The Garden Of Eden:
 - A Law Was Given To Adam & Eve!
 - But - Then Paul Adds:
 - The Duration Of The Law!
 - Yes - “Law Hath Dominion Over A Man!”
 - But - It Only Lasts:
 - “As Long As He Liveth!”
 - So - Even Though:
 - “Death & Taxes” Are Considered To Be:
 - The Only Certainties In Life:
 - You Can Still Take Comfort In The Fact That:
 - The Coming Of The One Will Be The End Of The Other!
 - Now - Even Though This Principle:
 - Seems Pretty Obvious:
 - We Need To Stick With Paul A Little Longer:
 - Because - In 7:2-3 - He Then Provides:

2. ***A Major Pattern From The Law!***

- This Is Where We Start To See:
 - The Illustration Of **Marriage**:
 - In Your Relationship:
 - With **Sin** - When You Are **Lost**:
 - And With The **Lord**:
 - When You Are **Found!**
 - 1:2-3 - “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. / So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man!”
 - Now - Paul Could Have Illustrated This Principle:
 - With Any Number Of Laws:
 - But - He Chooses God’s Law:
 - That Deals With Marriage! And:
- The Vision Of God’s Law:
 - For Marriage:
 - Is Found In 7:2!
 - The Vision Of God’s Law:
 - Is Faithfulness In Marriage!
 - And - Even Though The Law:
 - Applies To Both The Husband & The Wife:
 - His Focus Is On The Wife, And On:
 - Here Responsibility!

- She Is - “Bound By The Law To Her Husband!”
 - This Is The Kind Of Relationship:
 - God Had In Mind For Marriage:
 - From The Very Beginning! When:
 - In Genesis 2;24 - We Are Told:
 - “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh!”
 - This Close & Intimate Relationship:
 - Carries With It:
 - Special Roles & Responsibilities:
 - For Both The Husband And The Wife!
 - And It Is To Last Until:
- Her Release:
 - When - 7:2 - “If [Her] Husband Be Dead, She Is Loosed From The Law Of Her Husband!”
 - That Is - The Law Of Marriage With Her Husband!
 - She Is No Longer Married To Him!
 - Upon The Death Of Your Spouse:
 - Your Love May Continue!
 - Your Loyalty May Continue!
 - But - The Law No Longer Applies:
 - To That Relationship!
- And Then - In 7:3:
 - Paul Wants To Further Illustrate The Principle:
 - In Terms Of:
- The Verdict Of God’s Law:
 - For Marriage!
 - The Difference Between:
 - Sinning & Not Sinning:
 - Is Whether Or Not:
 - The Law Of God Has Been Broken!
 - To Be Guilty Means:
 - That God’s Law For Marriage:
 - Still Applies:
 - As We See In 7:3a - “So Then, If While Her Husband Liveth, She Be Married to Another Man, She Shall Be Called An Adulteress!”
 - This Is The Verdict:
 - Of God’s Law!
 - Exodus 20:14 - The Seventh Commandment - “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery!” - But:
 - To Be Guiltless Means:
 - That God’s Law For Marriage:
 - No Longer Applies:
 - As We See In 7:3b - “But If Her Husband Be Dead, She Is Free From That Law; So That She Is No Adulteress, Though She Be Married To Another Man!”
- The Covenant And Law Of Marriage:
 - Depends On:
 - The Condition Of Your Spouse!
 - **IE:** Now - This Does Not Mean That You Should Take The Law Into Your Own Hands
 - If You Are Not Satisfied With Your Marriage! By God’s Grace, Work It Out!
 - But - Paul Gives Us:
 - This Principle & Pattern:
 - About Marriage - In Order To Make:

3. ***A Major Point About The Law!***

- In 7:4 - “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God!”
 - You See - Paul Is Not Just Talking About:
 - Your Natural Connection:

- In Marriage:
 - To Either A Husband Or A Wife!
- He Wants You To Realize That There Is:
- Another Part To Your Life!
 - You See - He Is Also Talking About:
 - Your Spiritual Connection To & Relationship With:
 - Either Sin Or God:
 - In Terms Of Marriage!
 - Remember - The Only Way:
 - To Get Out From Under:
 - The Laws That Govern Marriage:
 - According To Paul's Illustration:
 - Is Death!
 - **IE:** After All - Isn't This The Commitment That We Even Make In Our Marriage Vows? "Till Death Do Us Part!"
 - But What Does Paul Here Say:
 - To Believers In Christ?
 - "Ye Also Are Become Dead To The Law!"
 - It's Not Even Your Spiritual Spouse Of Sin That Died - Because - Sin Is Still Alive & Well In This World!
 - But Instead - If You Are A Christian - **You** Are Now Dead:
 - To The Law - And The Power & Strength It Had Over You:
 - When It Governed The Relationship You Had With Sin!
 - This Is What Paul Has Been Telling Us:
 - Ever Since 6:3 - "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"
 - So Even Here - In 7:4:
 - "Ye Also Are Become Dead To The Law By The Body Of Christ!"
 - When You Trust In Jesus:
 - His Death Becomes Your Death:
 - And Your Relationship With Sin:
 - Is Forever Severed - Because:
 - The Law Itself Is Completely Fulfilled!
 - So That Now - There Is:
 - Another Person In Your Life!
 - **IE:** Mentioned - 89 Year Old Uncle - Recently Remarried! Privilege To Conduct A Marriage Of A Widow & Widower Just A Few Years Ago Right Here On This Platform! Beautiful & Wonderful Thing! No Longer Alone! Because Of Another Person God Brought Into Their Lives!
 - Well - When You Come To Jesus Christ - God Arranged It So That You Are Now:
 - Spiritually "Married To Another!"
 - 7:4 - "Even To Him Who Is Raised From The Dead!"
 - The Death Of Christ On The Cross:
 - Broke The Bond You Had With Sin!
 - A Bond So Close:
 - It Was As If You Were Married To It!
 - The Resurrection Of Jesus From The Dead:
 - Provided A New Bond - With Him!
 - A Bond That Is Even More Close And Intimate!
 - You Now Belong To Him!
 - And This All Leads To:
 - Another Purpose For Your Life!
 - 7:4c - "That We Should Bring Forth Fruit Unto God!"
 - When God Originally Designed Marriage:
 - In Genesis 1:28 - He Told Adam & Eve:
 - "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth!"
 - Fruitfulness In That Context:
 - Was Bearing And Rearing:
 - Children In This world!

- Well - In A Similar Way:
 - The Church Is “Married” To Christ:
 - So That “We Should Bring Forth Fruit Unto God!”
 - And The “Fruit” That God Is After:
 - Is What We Find In:
 - 6:22 - “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life!”
- We Need To Keep This Point:
 - In Mind - As We Live Our Lives:
 - As Christians & As A Church!
 - We Are “Married To Another!”
 - You Are “Married To Another!”
 - And The Claim Of Sin:
 - And The Condemnation Of The Law:
 - No Longer Applies:
 - To You!
 - Because - Colossians 3:3:
 - “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God!”
 - But Then - In 7:5-6 - We Find:

4. ***A Major Plan Apart From The Law!***

- “For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. / But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter!”
 - The Key Word In These Verses Is:
 - “Delivered” - In 7:6!
 - Just Like The Wife Is:
 - “Delivered / Loosed / Released From The Law Of Her Husband” (7:2) - When He Dies!
 - So We Are:
 - Delivered / Loosed / Released From “The Law Of Sin And Death” (8:2) - Because:
 - We Died In Christ!
 - And This Is All Part Of God’s Major Plan:
 - For His People!
 - So That Now - You Are:
 - Delivered From The Opposition:
 - To God And His Law!
 - 7:5 Is Written In The Past Tense:
 - For Believers In Christ!
 - “For When We ***Were!***”
 - This Is What It Was Really Like:
 - When You Were Lost:
 - And Without Christ In This World!
 - Your Past Condition:
 - Was “In The Flesh!”
 - “Flesh” In The New Testament:
 - Doesn’t Just Mean Your Physical Body - But:
 - Your Former, Fallen Self!
 - Your Nature And Condition:
 - As A Sinner!
 - And Just Like Any Other Creature In This World:
 - You Lived According To Your Nature!
 - Just As - Fish Swim / Birds Fly / Deer Run:
 - Sinners Sin!
 - This Is Who You Were! And:
 - Your Past Commitment:
 - Was To The “Motions Of Sin!”

- You Lived According To:
 - The Passions And Lusts:
 - Of Your Sinful, Fallen Nature!
- This Phrase Could Also Be Translated:
 - The “Motions Of *Sins!*” (Both Plural)
 - Because Of The Diversity Of Our Sin / The Intensity Of Our Sin / The Multiplicity Of Our Sin!
- So - Your Life Was Not Much Different Than:
 - The Lives Of Sinners Before The Flood:
 - When - Genesis 6:5 - “GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually!”
- And Your Commitment To Sin:
 - Was Highlighted Further:
 - When You Were Confronted With The Law Of God!
 - This Is What Paul Means When He Says “The Motions Of Sins, Which Were By The Law!”
- The Law Of God Didn’t Create Your Sinful Nature!
 - It Only Served To Highlight It:
 - And Condemn You For It!
 - **IE:** It Was Part Of Your Nature - Just Like A Child - When Told: Don’t Look / Don’t Touch! What Did We Do? We Looked! We Touched!
 - ***The Law Brings Out The Fulness And The Filthiness Of The Flesh!***
- And - This Is Who You Were:
 - And What You Were Like! And:
- Your Past Conduct:
 - Was - Every Day:
 - Bringing “Forth Fruit” - But What Kind?
 - “Fruit Unto Death!”
- This Is Who You Were:
 - And What You Were Like:
 - And What You Did!
 - But - God Had A Better Plan:
 - For You!
 - Not Only Did He Deliver You:
 - From Your Rebellious Opposition:
 - To Him And His Law!
 - You Were Also:
- Delivered From The Obligation:
 - Of God’s Law!
 - 7:6a - “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held!”
 - Or - “Being Dead To That – By Which We Were Held!”
 - When You:
 - Turn To & Trust In Jesus Christ:
 - The Law Of God:
 - Has Nothing Against You:
 - Any More!
 - All The Debt You Owed For Your Guilt:
 - Was Paid For:
 - By The Blood Of Jesus On The Cross!
 - And - What The Law Demanded From You:
 - Jesus Christ Delivered For You:
 - Once And For All!
 - So That Now You Are:
 - Delivered To The Opportunity:
 - To Serve God!
 - 7:6b - “That We Should / Now Serve In Newness Of Spirit, And Not In The Oldness Of The Letter!”

- If You Are A Christian:
 - This Is Your Opportunity Each And Ever Day!
 - You **Get To** Serve God!
- And - You Get To Serve Him:
- In A Whole New Way!
 - “In Newness Of Spirit!”
 - So - Not Only Is Your Service For God:
 - A Fresh Way Of Living:
 - And - A Fervent Way Of Living:
 - Even As Paul Described His Service For God In 1:9 - “Whom I Serve With My Spirit!”
 - It Is Also A Fruitful Way Of Living:
 - Because The Holy Spirit Of God:
 - Is The One Who Enables You To “Walk In Newness Of Life!” (6:4)
 - After All - As 2 Corinthians 3:6 Tells Us:
 - “The Spirit Giveth Life!”
 - What An Opportunity For You!
 - You Can Now “Serve” Your Creator & Your Redeemer:
 - “In Newness Of Spirit!”
 - Isn’t This So Much Better Than:
- The Old Way?
 - When You Lived & Served:
 - “In The Oldness Of The Letter?”
 - This Refers To Both The:
 - Misunderstanding And The Misuse Of God’s Law!
- There Are Still A Lot Of People In This World:
 - Who Think That All They Have To Be:
 - Is “Good” - And They Can Get A Free Ticket To Heaven!
 - They Might Even Say - When Confronted With God’s Law - As The Rich Young Ruler Did In Matthew 19:20 - “All these things have I kept from my youth up!”
- But They Fail To Realize That:
 - Living According To The Letter Of God’s Law:
 - In A Formal Way:
 - Is A Frail Way:
 - To Base Your Eternity On!
 - Especially After What We Know About Ourselves:
 - From Romans 3 - 3:10-11 - “There is none righteous, no, not one: / There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God!”
- But - Isn’t God’s Way & God’s Plan:
 - So Much Better?
 - God Has Delivered You & Has Given You:
 - The Opportunity To Serve Him:
 - Not Just With The Head:
 - But With All Your Heart!

Conclusion:

1. This Is What The Apostle Paul Means:
 - When He Says That You Are Now:
 - “Married To Another!”
 - Since Your Old Man:
 - Was Crucified With Jesus Christ:
 - On That Old Rugged Cross:
 - It Has Forever Changed Your Relationship To Sin!
- You Are No Longer:
 - A Subject:
 - To Sin!

- You Are No Longer:
 - A Soldier:
 - For Sin!
- You Are No Longer:
 - A Slave:
 - Of Sin! And:
- You Are No Longer:
 - A Spouse:
 - To Sin!

2. Because - The Only Way You Had To Escape:

- Death - Has Already Been Accomplished!
 - Even As We Were Told:
 - Back In 6:3-4 - “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? / Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life!”
- So - Remember Today:
 - That You Are “Married To Another!”
 - “Even To Him Who Is Raised From The Dead!”

- * Who Are You Spiritually Married To? Sin Or Christ Jesus?
- * Are You Bearing Fruit From Your Relationship With Christ?
- * How Are You Serving God Today? In “Newness Of Spirit?”

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