

BOOK OF ROMANS
THE BELIEVER AND THE LAW
ROMANS 7:1-6

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Introduction

In the beginning of this chapter, **PAUL** is trying to get **BELIEVERS** to understand about their **NEW RELATIONSHIP** to the **LAW** and to **SIN!** In the last of *chapter 6*, he used the **ANALOGY OF SLAVERY** to teach us that, in **CHRIST**, we were **FREED** from our **OLD MASTER OF SIN** and are **ALIVE TO A NEW MASTER**, the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

Here, he moves from the **ANALOGY OF SLAVERY** to that of **MARRIAGE**. He uses **MARRIAGE** as a picture of our **NEW RELATIONSHIP** to the **LAW**.

The fact is, spiritually speaking, we are **MARRIED** to either the **LAW** or the **LORD**. So, lets consider what **PAUL** has to say here in these first six verses.

I. WE SEE THE LAW AND MARRIAGE. (Vs. 1-3)

A. First, Let's Note The POWER Of The LAW. Vs. 1

The idea here is that **ALL LAWS**, whether **GOD'S LAWS** or **MAN'S LAWS**, can only be enforced on a person for as long as that person is alive. When a person dies, they are freed from the **POWER THE LAW**. They are beyond the **LAW'S** reach!

(A great example of this can be found in our history when Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the murder of President John F. Kennedy, he was subject to the laws of the state of Texas and of the United States of America. However, when Jack Ruby walked into that Dallas police station and killed Oswald, the law could no longer touch him. It would have been foolish for the authorities to have placed him on trial with him being dead! When he died, he was beyond the reach of the LAW!)

Spiritually speaking this same thing is true for the **BELIEVER IN CHRIST**. As long as a person is alive in their **NATURAL STATE**, they stand **CONDEMNED** by the **LAW OF GOD**, but when **BY FAITH** they are joined to **CHRIST**, **CHRIST'S DEATH** becomes that **BELIEVER'S DEATH**.

Thereby **FREEING** the **BELIEVER** from the **POWER** of the **LAW!** The **LAW** has no **POWER** over the **BELIEVER** because technically, **WE DIED IN CHRIST!**

B. Second, Let's Note The PICTURE Of The LAW. Vs 2-3

In these verses, **PAUL** uses the image of **MARRIAGE** to demonstrate what he means. He tells us that as long as a woman's husband is **ALIVE**, she is bound to him by the **LAW** of **MARRIAGE**.

If she were to leave her husband and be joined in **MARRIAGE** to another man, she is guilty under the **LAW** as an **ADULTERER**. However, if her husband dies, she is free to marry again, because she has been **LIBERATED** from the **LAW** by her husband's **DEATH**.

Understand that **PAUL** is **not** giving us a lesson on **MARRIAGE** here, but rather he is reminding us that the only way to be **FREE** from the **CONFINES** and **DEMANDS** of the **LAW** is for us to be **DEAD**. Until we **DIE**, the **LAW** hangs over our heads making **DEMANDS** that we can never hope to keep. However, at **DEATH**, we are **SET FREE** from these terrible **DEMANDS**.

WE SEE THE LAW AND MARRIAGE...

II. WE SEE OUR LIBERTY AND MARRIAGE! (Vs. 4)

A. We Have A New Freedom!

PAUL tells us that we have become **DEAD** to the **LAW** by or through the **"BODY of CHRIST."** (*Cf. Romans 6:6*)

When **JESUS DIED** on the **CROSS**, those who receive **HIM** also **DIED ON THAT CROSS**. Therefore, we are **FREED** from the **LAW**, because we have **DIED** to it!

(Cf. Colossians 2:12-15)

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The whole idea is that when **CHRIST DIED** on that **CROSS** we who have **BELIEVED ON HIM** also **DIED IN HIM!** And when we **DIED**, our **MARRIAGE** to the **LAW** and all of its **DEMANDS** on our lives were done away with. **WE DIED TO THE LAW AND WE ARE THEREBY OUT FROM UNDER ITS DOMINION AND POWER OVER US!**

Just as our **DEATH IN CHRIST** brought **FREEDOM** from the **POWER OF SIN**, so too, we have been **DELIVERED** from the **POWER OF THE LAW!**

The **LAW** stood over us **DEMANDING DEATH** for the **LAWS** we had broken, but when **CHRIST DIED**, **HE SATISFIED** the **RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS** of the **LAW**. Since we were in **HIM** when **HE DIED**, we too have **SATISFIED THE LAW'S DEMANDS**. We have **DIED** and since that is true, the **LAW** has no more claims against us! In other words, we are **FREE IN AND THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!**

We Have A New Freedom...

B. We Have A New Family!

Verse 4 goes on to tell us that we are "*married to another*" At the instant we became **DEAD TO THE LAW**, we were **MARRIED** to the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!** We have become a part of **HIS FAMILY!**

Just as a **REMARRIAGE** after the **DEATH** of a spouse brings about a change in the **MARITAL RELATIONSHIP**, it also brings with it other changes as well.

When we were under the **DOMINION** of the **LAW**, we were constantly being held to a **STANDARD** we could never meet! The **LAW** was **HARSH** and it was **NEVER SATISFIED!** Regardless of how well we may have lived our lives, the **LAW** always told us that we were never good enough.

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The **LAW** constantly reminded us of our lost condition and that we were totally helpless and that there was no hope for us. Our relationship to the **LAW** was one of cruelty and pain!

However, in **CHRIST**, we have a **NEW HUSBAND** and a **NEW RELATIONSHIP!** **HE** tells us that when we came to **HIM** for **SALVATION**, **HE** cleansed us from our sins and made us righteous. **HE** holds no impossible demands over our heads, because **HE** has already paid the entire price for us. **IN HIM**, we are **LOVED**, we are **FREE** and we are **COMPLETE**. This is pictured in *Ephesians 5:24-27*.

We are **NO LONGER BOUND** to that hateful, cruel, demanding husband—the **LAW**. In **CHRIST**, we have been **JOINED** to **ONE WHO** placed our needs first. **ONE WHO LOVED US** so much **HE WILLINGLY DIED IN OUR PLACE ON THE CROSS**. **ONE WHO** never holds our past against us. Instead of holding our past against us, the **LORD JESUS** lovingly binds us up, draws us to **HIS BOSOM** and **LOVES OUR PAST AWAY!**

We Have A New Freedom...Family...

C. We Have A New Fruitfulness!

Verse 4 continues with **PAUL** reminding us that **CHRIST** did not do all of this for us just to bless us. **HE SAVED US** and **BROUGHT US INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF** so that we might **GLORIFY GOD** by bringing forth fruit unto **HIM**.

This is made clear by what **PAUL** tells us in *Ephesians 2:10*, "*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*"

This is also the idea behind *Galatians 2:19-20*.

We have been given new lives so that we might glorify **GOD!**

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This **FRUIT** that we are to bear is two-fold.

- 1) This **FRUIT** makes its appearance in our *Attitudes*. As the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT** is displayed within and through us to a lost and dying world. *Galatians 5:22-23*
2. This **FRUIT** also makes its appearance in our *Actions*. Not only will we be different internally, but externally through the things we do for the **LORD**. *John 15:1-8*

God's desire for His children is that we be fruitful for His glory!

WE SEE THE LAW AND MARRIAGE...OUR LIBERTY AND MARRIAGE...

III. WE SEE OUR LIVES AND MARRIAGE. (Vs. 5-6)

In the last two verses of our passage, **PAUL** contrasts the **OLD LIFE OF SIN** with the **NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT**. He shows us what changes have taken place as a result of our **MARRIAGE TO JESUS**.

A. We See The Old Life In SIN! (Vs. 5)

This verse tells us some things about our old, sinful lives.

1. **We Were In The FLESH!**
That is, we could only operate within the realm of what our wicked **FLESH** could produce. We were unable to walk in righteousness or please the **LORD!**
2. **We Were Controlled By The Motions Of SINS!**
That is, we were held captive by our natural appetites and desires of our **FLESH**. We lived our lives according to the impulses of our lost **FLESH!**
(Ephesians 2:1-4)
3. **We Were Challenged To SIN By The LAW!**
When the **LAW** said "*thou shalt not*", this wicked, rebellious **FLESH** determined that it would anyway.

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In the hands of rebels, the **LAW**, was given to show **GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS**, but it became a thing that led us into **EVIL**. The **LAW** was not **EVIL**, but it was used by our fallen natures as a reason to go after what the **LAW** said was **OFF LIMITS!**

4. We Were Actively Engaged In That Which Was Bringing About Our Death!

With every **SIN** and **REBELLION**, the **SINNER** is hastening and worsening his own doom. When we thought we were **FREE**, we were actually the **PRISONERS** of our **VICES** and we were digging our own pits deeper with every single **SIN** we committed.

We See The Old Life In Sin...

B. We See The New Life In The SPIRIT! (Vs 6)

This great verse sums up this short passage very well. Here, **PAUL** makes the comparison between what we once were and what we are now in **CHRIST!**

Notice those two words, "*But Now.*" Since we are **IN CHRIST**, some things are forever changed! Notice the changes that have taken place in **CHRIST**.

1. We Have Been Delivered From The LAW!

Because we have died with Christ, we are no longer under the **DEMANDS** of the **LAW**. We are not **BOUND** by it any longer! Why, because the **LAW HAS NO POWER AFTER DEATH** and we are **DEAD WITH CHRIST TO THE LAW!**

What that means is that we are **FREE** from all the moral and spiritual liabilities and penalties that go along with the **LAW**. **IN CHRIST**, we are **FREE** from **JUDGMENT!**

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We Have Been Delivered From The Law...

2. We Have Been Released To Serve!

The idea here is that of a **SLAVE** who went from being with a hard taskmaster who could never be pleased to a loving **MASTER WHO** not only **FREED HIM from that old master, but helps alongside us as we do what he asks us to do!**

It is the picture of a person who lives for nothing else, but to do the will of his **LOVING MASTER!** This is what should describe our lives as **BELIEVERS!**

Matthew 11:28–30—“28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

3. We Have Been Given A New Life With Which To Better Serve Him!

The difference between “*have to*” and “*want to*”

Conclusion:

So **BELIEVERS** have a different relationship to the **LAW** than ever before! Now, because of the **IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST** we have met the **LAW'S RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS IN CHRIST!** That, along with the **INDWELLING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** changes our attitude about the **LAW** and helps us **PLEASE GOD!** Now, even though we are not under the **LAW'S** bondage or its penalties, we want to do what it teaches and we no longer want to live in rebellion against it! Because now the **LAW** fits our lives very well! Now, we know that to **LOVE GOD'S LAW** and to joyfully do it is to **GLORIFY HIM** and that should be the desire of every **BELIEVER!**