

Dead to the Law and Married to Christ
Romans 7:1-6
June 25, 2020

Review

Theme of Romans: The gospel of God (1:16-17)

1:18-3:20 The universality of sin and condemnation (the universal need for the gospel)

3:21-4:25 The gospel (good news) as the righteousness of God by faith

Chs 5-8 The gospel and the sure hope it gives

5:1-11 Blessed results of justification

5:12-21 The superiority of the reign of God's grace in the second Adam over the reign of sin through the first Adam

Ch 6 The triumph of grace over the power of sin

7:1-8:17 The triumph of grace over the power of the law

Chapter 7 speaks much about the "the law" of God

- 14 times in 25 verses
- verses 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 [3x], 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 22, 25

Question: What thoughts come to your mind when you hear the term, "the law"?

Chapter 7 is tightly connected to **6:14-15**

1. When we were in Adam, we were under the reign of the law
 - Those who are in Adam and have the law break the law (2:23)
 - By works of the law no man will be justified, since through the law comes knowledge of sin (3:20)
 - The law brings wrath (4:15)
 - God gave the law to increase the trespass (5:20)
2. Now that we are in Christ, we are under the reign of grace
3. The apostle Paul's opponents claimed he was speaking against the law
4. In ch 7, Paul answers further the question of verse 15, upholds the value of the law, and explains why the sinner must be released from something that is good.
5. This teaching takes us to the doctrine of the believer's indwelling sin
6. Chapter 7 helps us in sanctification

You have died to the law that you may belong to Christ and bear fruit (1-4)

verse 1

1. "the law"
 - The written law of God (6, 7, 22)
 - The Mosaic law
2. "is binding on a person"
 - More literal: CSB "rules over"
 - NKJV "has dominion over"
 - NASB "has jurisdiction over"
3. States the obvious

An important example of how death frees from law is given in **verses 2-3**

verse 4

"you also have died to the law through the body of Christ"

1. Have been legally released from the law's dominion through death
2. Through union with Christ in His death (6:3-5)
3. Goes hand-in-hand with having died to sin, for sin and the law together had dominion over us (**6:2, 6-7**)

4. Having died to the law, we are now free from the law's condemnation (8:1) and its power to arouse our sinful passions (7:5; cf. **5:20**)

“so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead”

1. *Question:* Verse 4 speaks of how the Christian now belongs to Christ. What does this mean? What is the significance of this for our lives?

2. The words “belong to another” parallel the words, **3** “lives with another,” and **3** “marries another”
3. **NASB** “be joined to another”
4. **NKJV** “be married to another”

“in order that we may bear fruit for God.”

1. The truth that believers are “not under law but under grace” (6:14-15), when understood properly, encourages not sin but the fruitfulness of obedience to God
2. Union with Christ produces the obedience that the law cannot produce
3. **John 15:5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”
4. God has saved us so that we, who beforehand were under sin, will bear fruit for God

Sanctification springs not from the law, but from union with Christ

- Does not deny that Christ uses the law in our sanctification

You have been released from the law so that you serve in the new way of the Spirit (5-6)

verse 5

1. “while we were living in the flesh”
 - “Flesh” literally means “physical body” (Gal 2:20; Rom 1:3)
 - It also means “human being” (Gal 1:16) and “human effort” (Gal 3:3)
 - In Romans 7, it means “fallen humanness” (also 13:14; Gal 5:13, 16-17, 19, 24)
 - Synonymous with the believer's “old self” (6:6; Eph 4:22; Col 3:9)
 - Who we are apart from the saving work of God

2. “our sinful passions, aroused by the law”
 - In our unregenerate state, when the law commanded us, we rebelled in the realm of our passions (controlling desires)
3. “were at work in our members to bear fruit for death”
 - When we were in the flesh, this is what the law produced in all parts of our life, not “fruit for God” (4)

verse 6

1. Joined to Christ, we are recipients of the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit
2. The New Covenant and Old Covenant
3. Though “the written code” was good, it was preparatory and could not produce in rebels what Christ by the Spirit can produce
4. **Jer. 31:31–33** “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts...”
5. **Ezek. 36:26–27** “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

Sanctification is dependent upon the power of the Spirit given by Christ

1. The Spirit subdues our old sinful passions
2. The Spirit creates new godly passions

Conclusion

We have been set from the law, not to be able to sin without fear, but to be changed by Christ through His Spirit from the inside out