

# Romans 26 - Married to Whom?

Dr. Leon L. Sanders  
Romans 7:1-6

## Prologue: Baptism Metaphor

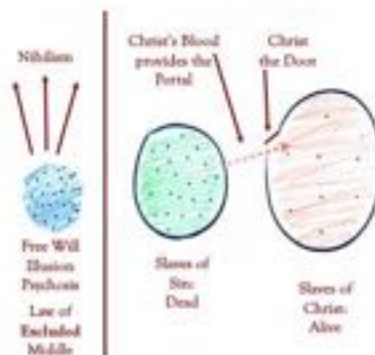
- Confession: Crucifying old man (Self)-Nailed to stauros
- Immersion: Burial of self
- Arise: Resurrection in the new nature
- Water: Spirit, active agent



## Prologue: Biblical Reality

- Blue - Illusionary: Nonexistent
- Green - Sinner's domain: Closed
- Red - Believer's domain: Closed
- Bridge - Christ bridges domains

**Impossible** Gulf separates the Lost from the Saved  
Christ is the Door Guarding His Domain  
(Luke 16:26, Jp. 10:7-10)



## Prologue: Law of Excluded Middle

- Both spiritual domains are closed and cannot be transitioned by choice as they are non-empirical; beyond the power of created beings to change
  - Only Christ transitions between the spiritual domains bringing whomever He chooses; i.e., salvation
  - Once Saved, one cannot leave Life's domain unless removed by Christ which He declared He will not and cannot do because of the Father's will (Jo 10:27-30)

## Prologue: Man *Always* Worships

- One does not have specific times of worship, like church, one is *always* in a state of worship
  - He implies one choice: presenting one's self to either flesh or faith
  - You are the obedient slave of that which you follow, of that which you agree with at that moment: Worship is obedience to the source of one's momentary truth

One is always in a state of worship, following one's source of truth.  
What one worships varies: Obedience to either faith or flesh

## Christ's Definition of Marriage

- Christ gave God's definition of marriage when confronted by the Pharisees seeking to trap Him (Mt 19:1-9)
  - In the beginning God made Man and Woman, joining them together into a unique relationship (Ge 2:20-25)
  - God intended this relationship to be permanent
  - Breaking the relationship without death is adultery
  - Moses {God} allowed divorce for adultery: sin-hard-heart (De 10:15)

## Paul Explains His Metaphor

- Based primarily on Jewish marriage laws and customs contained in the Torah based on the Moral Law
  - Unmarried woman can marry a man (allowed polygamy: Weakness of the flesh) without being an adulteress
  - According to Christ's, and Paul's, definition of marriage only death annulled the marital relationship
  - Woman could then remarry and not be considered an adulteress; woman represents the church and believer (Ep 5:22-33)

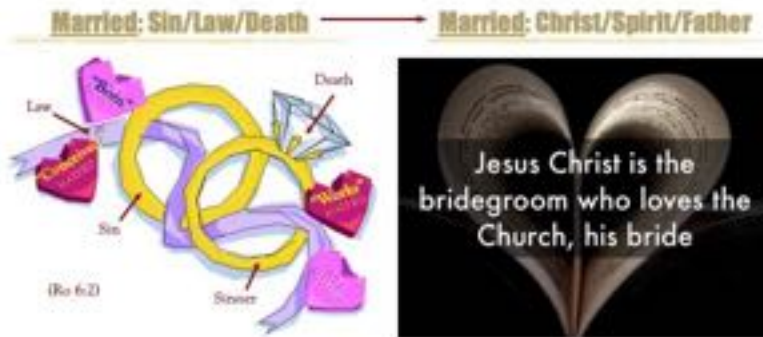
## Paul Uses Marriage Metaphor

- Paul expands Christ's explanation of marriage as he explains why one is free from sin's slavery via death
  - His metaphor of being free from the Law through death subsumes one is *married* to the Law, sin and death
  - Divorce is not an option; one's *sin nature* is inexorably melded into one nature with sin, revealed and intensified by Law via Satan's testings and subsequent accusations of one's sinful deeds resulting in death

## All Born Married to Sin

- The implication is clear: all are conceived in sin, all are born in sin and thus married to sin: *one nature* (Ps 51:5)
  - The implication is clear: There is **no** divorce from sin
  - The implication is clear: There is **no** adultery as sin will not let you go nor will Christ accept adultery and condone sin; He cannot compromise His nature (Ga 1:13-15)
  - Testing reveals our true desire for sin though the result is death: spiritual and physical; now and eternally

## Marriage as Metaphor/Reality



## Death – The Only Escape

- Paradox: Death the only means to separate from sin; however, to die in sin is to remain in sin eternally
  - Paul explains that when Christ *died*, was separated from the Father and punished for sin, we were there *substitutionally*; this is applied at salvation with the death of the *old man* and the birth of the *new nature* (Col 2:11-14)
  - Death freed us from marriage to sin, Law, and eternal death allowing us to marry Christ: Salvation (1Co 15:55-57)

## Sin and Law Ensures Our Death

- While the importance of this escapes Christians today who never understood the condemnation of the Moral Law; Law demands death for all violators
  - Ultimate Nihilism: Sin nature embraces the Law which illuminates the sinfulness of sin whose end is only death
  - Thus, keeping the Law only embracing one's death; thus, an *anathema* to God rather than pleasing to Him

## Dead to Sin/Law–Alive in Christ

- Salvation: death of *sinful* self with separation from sin
  - Jesus did not circumvent the Law for that would be an affront to His nature; the demand of the Law was met
  - With the death of the *old man* one is released from the curse of the Moral Law as its demand was satisfied
  - Christ purchased our lives in Him on the *stauros*, our *new nature* demonstrates our eternal separation from sin, the Law's curse: eternal death

## Born in Newness of Life

- Being raised from the dead, spiritually (first fruit of our coming physical resurrection), we are now married to Christ and are His first fruits of the Bride of Christ: all who will possess His *new nature* (1Co 15:20-23, 42-50; Ep 5:30-32; Ro 21:1-7)
  - Therefore sin, Law, and death no longer have power over us; we died to them in Christ and in our *sin nature*
  - Being *new creations* we can serve Him in the power of the Spirit (*charisma*); though we retain the weakened flesh (Ro 5:8-11; 2Co 5:17)

## Do Not Be Confused

- Sinners, married to sin, Law and their flesh can only produce works that condemned them to eternal death
  - The very works that man glories in are as filthy, unclean, menstrual rags to the Father; life not conceived (Is 64:6)
  - This is the reason men became weak in the presence of holiness; the experiential apprehension of their utter fleshly sinfulness (Is 61-2; Da 10)

## Spirit Teaches Us the Law


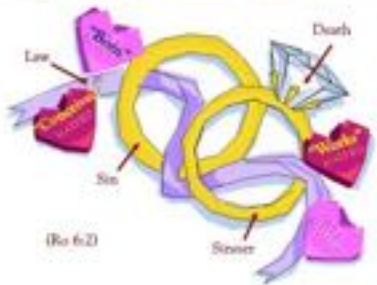
- Marriage to Christ means oneness with Father and Spirit since all are one in one per Christ (Jo 17:20-24)
  - This does not negate the Moral Law, as it is a synopsis of God's nature and our *new nature*; however, it now has a new relationship with us (Ro 5:17-23)
  - We are taught to live the Law as Christ taught in His Sermon on the Mount; it serves as a guide to our spiritual maturity in Christ (Mt 5:21-32; He 5:14)

## One Cannot Play the Harlot

- Marriage is a unique and inviolate relationship whether to sin, Law and death or to Christ, Spirit and Father
  - When married to sin one cannot follow Christ for neither sin nor the Law will give a divorce, nor do you wish one since your *old man* desires sin
  - When married to Christ one's *new nature* is unified with the Trinity and refuses to play the harlot with sin; it is the *weak flesh* that plays the harlot, embracing sin

## Epilogue: Marriage as Reality

**Married: Sin/Law/Death** → **Married: Christ/Spirit/Father**



(Ro 6:2)

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## Understanding Adam's Sin

- Completeness of Adam's Fall and our sinfulness
  - Adam *married* to Christ; though without the *new nature*
  - Adam desired to be independent of God - Died in sin
  - Now *married* to sin and death via commandment (Law)
  - Now Man and Woman not unified in Christ, one flesh
  - Resulting in fear, hostility, loneliness motivated by self-covetousness over everyone else: Welcome to modern man seeking justification through philosophy (Religion)