

## Romans 7

**Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives? For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him. So then, if she has sexual relations with another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress if she marries another man.**

**-Romans 7:1-3**

Not intended to be a marriage teaching, rather, a truth concerning the power of the law. It is binding and only death can dissolve the bond, like marriage.

Though not intended; still a biblical truth concerning the seriousness of a marriage covenant.

**Rom. 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

Paul states sin has no dominion over believers in Ch 6 now he explains why. Death breaks the obligation.

Q. Did we die?

A. Yes. We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin (Rom. 6:11), baptism is a symbolic act of this inner truth

**So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.**

**-Romans 7:4**

We have been released from the demands of the law through our belief and identification in the body of Christ and his death on the cross. We are free from the law but "married" (In Covenant, Committed for life) to Christ.

*"Believers are through with the law. It is not for them an option as a way of salvation. They do not seek to be right with God by obeying some form of law, as the adherents of almost all religions have done." (Morris)*

The purpose is that we may bear fruit for God.

Q. How can we or how do we bear such fruit?

**Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law**

**For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death.**

**-Romans 7:5**

The law identified and aroused the fleshly desires that lurked in my heart. Nothing is more desirable than forbidden fruit.

**But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.**

**- Romans 7:6**

*The theme of Romans 7:1-5 is summarized. Because we died with Jesus at Calvary, we are dead to the law and delivered from its dominion over us as a principle of justification or of sanctification.*

*The law does not justify us; it does not make us right with God. The law does not sanctify us; it does not take us deeper with God and make us more holy before Him. (Guzik).*

The difference between the newness of the Spirit and the Law is one of duty vs delight.

Paul uses a diatribe here.

**What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet. But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.**

**- Romans 7:7-8**

Some readers may think the Law is evil or even not needed. Paul answers emphatically, the Law is needed to reveal our sin. Like an X-ray machine, it reveals but that is it.

*But sin, taking opportunity by the commandments: Paul describes the dynamic where the warning "don't do that" may become a call to action because of our sinful, rebellious hearts. It isn't the fault of the commandment, but it is our fault. (Guzik).*

Florida Hotel: No fishing from balcony ...

**Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.**

**-Romans 7:9**

The law revealed our condition, Paul may be talking about a time in his life when ignorance was bliss, childhood.

**I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.**

**-Romans 7:10-11**

Sin entices men. The more prohibition the law established the more awake our rebel hearts became. (Prohibition, didn't stop drinking rather made it more attractive).

**So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.**

**-Romans 7:12**

The problem is not with the commandment or the law, it is in us  
The Law is wonderful, imagine if all the nations adhered to it.

Q. What would be different?

**Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring**

**about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.**

**-Romans 7:13**

*We need sin to appear sin, because it always wants to hide in us and conceal its true depths and strength. "This is one of the most deplorable results of sin. It injures us most by taking from us the capacity to know how much we are injured. It undermines the man's constitution, and yet leads him to boast of unfailing health; it beggars him, and tells him he is rich; it strips him, and makes him glory in his fancied robes." (Spurgeon)*

The revelation the law convinces me of the need for a savior.

**We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.**

**-Romans 7:14**

Paul knows the spiritual law cannot restrain his carnal nature. This may be the testimony of many tonight.

*Carnal uses the ancient Greek word sarkikos, which means, "characterized by the flesh." It speaks of the person who can and should do differently but does not. Paul sees this carnality in himself, and knows that the law, though it is spiritual, has no answer for his carnal nature. (Enduring Word).*

**I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.**

**-Romans 7:15-20**

Paul Sounds confused? He reckons himself dead to sin yet still sins, he acknowledges it's not the new man it's the old man in him, with whom he chooses not to identify with.

*For what I am doing, I do not understand: Paul's problem isn't desire - he wants to do what is right (what I will to do, that I do not practice). His problem isn't*

*knowledge - he knows what the right thing is. His problem is a lack of power: how to perform what is good I do not find. He lacks power because the law gives no power.*

*The law says: "Here are the rules and you had better keep them." But it gives us no power for keeping the law. (Guzik)*

**So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.**

**-Romans 7:21-23**

**I find then a law, that evil is present with me:** *Anyone who has tried to do good is aware of this struggle. We never know how hard it is to stop sinning until we try. "No man knows how bad he is until he has tried to be good." (C.S. Lewis).*

The old man is not the real Paul; the old man is dead. The flesh is not the real Paul; the flesh is destined to pass away and be resurrected. The new man is the real Paul; now Paul's challenge is to live like God has made him.

**What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?**

**-Romans 7:24**

Paul is desperate to be free.

Body of death, ancient Kings used corpses as punishment.

Paul asks, "Who" he FINALLY looks outside himself for power. Note how often Paul says "I" up to this point. Now he asks "who".

**Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.**

**-Romans 7:25**

Calvin calls Romans 7:25: "A short epilogue, in which he teaches us, that the faithful never reach the goal of righteousness as long as they dwell in the flesh, but that they are running their course, until they put off the body."

The battle against sin ensues to this day.