

## WHAT ABOUT THE LAW?

### Dead to the Law

**Romans 7:1-20 (KJV)** *Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) The church is a mixture of Jews and Gentiles. The Gentiles had no knowledge of the Law of God, but the Jews did and naturally they felt obligated to continue in the Law. **how that the law hath dominion** G2962; rule, lordship, see 6:14 note. **over a man as long as he liveth?** Gentiles in the church today are familiar with the Law because of their study of the Old Testament. We often times try to bring ourselves under the Law to some degree; and church leaders as well lead their congregation under some of the Old Testament Law also. The Law has no authority over the believer whatsoever. [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.** Death breaks a covenant. You are only bound to the law as long as you are living. You are only bound to the marriage covenant as long as you are living. The marriage vows state; "until death do us part." If you marry another while your mate is living, then you commit adultery. However, if your spouse dies then you are free to marry another. In Christ the *old man* died (Romans 6:6) and we are no longer bound to sin or the Law of God. We are free to marry another, that is Christ. In Christ, we not only died to sin, but to the Law as well. Christ conquered sin and fulfilled the Law for us. **Romans 8:4 (KJV)** *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* Therefore through faith in Jesus Christ the Lord we are free from sin and the Law because we are dead to both. That makes us free to marry another and our new husband is Christ, with whom we have been raised that now we may bring forth fruit unto God.*

### Alive to the Spirit

**[5] For when we were in the flesh, the motions** YLT and LITV translates *passions. of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. [6] But now we are delivered G2673; *to be entirely idle.* The same word rendered *destroyed* in Romans 6:6. Both times in the passive voice indicating that this is done for us. **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 Law empowered the passions of sin in our mind and body so that it produced fruit unto death. **1 Corinthians 15:56 (KJV)** *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.* However, just as sin has been rendered entirely idle to us so has the Law. So, in Christ we are no longer in the position of a slave to sin and sin has no more power over us. **Romans 6:14 KJV (14)** *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 2 Corinthians 3:6 KJV (6)* *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.* We no longer have to try and force our dead sinful minds and bodies to serve God according to a Law that is impossible for us to keep, but in Christ we are new creatures. God's Spirit dwells in our spirits. We are alive to Christ and now have God's power in us, so that now we are able to serve God according to His Spirit that lives in our once dead spirit so that now we are alive to God. **Ephesians 2:4-5 (KJV)** *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [5] Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) Romans 6:4 (KJV)* *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. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. Galatians 6:15 (KJV) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

### The Purpose of the Law

**[7] What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. [8] But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence.** Webster; strong desire, especially sexual desire. James 1:14-15 (KJV) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. **For without the law sin was dead.** The Law isn't sin, it points out what is sin. Sin is rebellion against God and His will. Our sin nature desires to remain in rebellion against the righteousness of God. Seeing the Law shows us God's righteous will and stirs sin to rebel all the more. Arnold Fruchtenbaum says; "when the Law says; "thou shalt not", the flesh says; "oh yes you will"; and when the Law says; "thou shalt", the flesh says; " oh no you will not." **[9] For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. [10] And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. [11] For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. [12] Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.** Paul was enjoying life at one time without the Law. When the commandment came, sin gained new strength and he, realizing his sinfulness, he died. 1 Corinthians 15:56 (KJV) *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.* As the sting of a scorpion brings death, so does the sting of sin bring death; and it is the Law that gives deadly power to its venom. The commandment was meant to show the way to life, but because of Paul's sin nature he could not obey it and that meant death for him, just as it does for all of us. Sin used the commandment that is holy, just, and good against Paul and brought death to him. **[13] Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.** The Law didn't bring death to him because sin that was in him since birth had already brought death to him. The Law just pointed sin out and let him see just how sinful he really was.

### The Problem with the Law

**[14] For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold** G4097; in the perfect tense in the Greek which indicates a past act with on going results in the present. **under sin.** Our father Adam sold all of us under sin. Rom 5:12 (KJV) *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:* **[15] For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.** (MEV) *For what I am doing, I do not understand, for I do not practice what I will to do, but I do the very thing I hate.* **[16] If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. [17] Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.** The conflict of the two natures is the plight of every born again person. The new creature in Christ agrees that the Law of God is good and wants to obey it. However, the remnants of the old nature that are present and active in the flesh, the unregenerate part of our being, still wants to do the things that it did under bondage to sin. When the believer commits a sinful act, it isn't the regenerate part of their being that is doing it, but it is the unregenerate part of their being that is doing the sinful deed. 1 John 3:9 (KJV) *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.* **[18] For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.** The part of us that is yet to be regenerated is still marred by sin and is still totally and completely

depraved. It awaits redemption. *1 Corinthians 15:50-58 (KJV) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. [51] Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. [55] O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? [56] The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58] Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

***[19] For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. [20] Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*** The new creature in Christ can't sin (1 John 3:9) and doesn't want to. Therefore, when the child of God is carrying out a sinful act, it isn't he or she that's doing it, but it is sin that is dwelling in their unregenerate part that is committing the sinful act. However, this is not an excuse to sin. Remember *Romans 6:13-14 (KJV) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. [14] For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*