

Serving in the Newness of the Spirit

Romans 7:1 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that **know the law**,) how that **the law hath dominion** over a man as long as he liveth? 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. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. 6 But now we are delivered 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.**

1. Paul illustrates our relationship to the law **7:1 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that **know the law,**) how that **the law hath dominion** over a man as long as he liveth?**

 - a. Obviously if you are dead the law does not have dominion over you
 - i. Dead people are not required to follow the law
 - ii. Any law over you will lose its power the minute you die
 - b. The perfect example is that of the married woman **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.**

 - i. In the Old Testament a husband could divorce his wife but the wife could never divorce her husband
 - ii. The Jews were married to the law and there was no way to get out of it just like the wife had no way out
 - iii. The only way out was for her husband to die

- iv. If the married woman were to leave her husband she would be called an adulteress
- c. The point of this illustration is to teach us about our relationship to the law
 - i. Paul is speaking to Jewish brothers, the people of Israel, those that know the law
 - ii. Through Christ we find freedom from the law because we are dead to the law
 - iii. Because we died in Christ we are dead to the law and free from legalism **Galatians 2:20** I **am** crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
 - iv. We are free from the demands of the law and free to simply love Jesus
- d. What have we seen so far about our relationship to the law
 - i. The law entered so we could see our sin and our need of salvation **Romans 5:20** Moreover the law entered,

that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

- ii. We are not under the law but grace [Romans 6:14](#) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- e. The illustration here has nothing to do with divorce and remarriage actually.
 - i. It is showing how you can get free from marriage
 - ii. It was something from their culture
 - iii. God definitely speaks about marriage and divorce but this passage is not about that but rather about your being freed from the law
 - iv. God's plan is one man, one woman, and one lifetime but we must stick to the text and not take from it what it is not saying
 - v. This is simply an illustration
- f. Notice the terms used in these verses [Romans 7:1](#) Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that **know the law,**) how that **the law hath dominion** over a man as long as he liveth? [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.

2. Now to the actual application to your life 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.**

- a. We are dead to the law [Galatians 2:19](#) For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.
 - i. To be “dead to the Law” does not mean that we lead lawless lives. It simply means that the *motivation* and *dynamic* of our lives does not come from the Law: it comes from God’s grace through our union with Christ.
 - ii. You couldn’t be saved by keeping the law and you will not be sanctified by keeping the law either

iii. Righteousness does not come by keeping the law
Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

b. So we can be married to another, Jesus Christ

i. We were in Adam and now we are in Christ

ii. We were of the flesh but now we are in the Spirit

Romans 8:5 For they that are **after the flesh** do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are **after the Spirit** the things of the Spirit. **6** For to be **carnally minded** *is* death; but to be **spiritually minded** *is* life and peace. **7** Because the **carnal mind** *is* **enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **8** So then they that are in **the flesh cannot please God**. **9** But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. **Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

c. So that we can bring forth fruit unto God

i. Our previous life, relationship, brought only fruit to death and shame **Romans 6:21** What fruit had ye then

in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

ii. We now bring forth fruit of holiness and life by Him living in and through us [Romans 6:22](#) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

iii. No matter how we tried our flesh only produced death [Romans 7:5](#) For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

d. Somehow we have built legalistic systems and expectations both personally and as a church

e. Human nature makes us want to go to extremes--since we are saved by grace we can live as we please, we get a license to sin. Others would say we are saved by grace but must live under the law to please God

f. What really is "legalism"? It is the belief that I can become holy and please God by obeying laws. It is measuring spirituality by a list of do's and don'ts.

g. The weakness of legalism is that it sees *sins* (plural) but not *sin* (the root of the trouble). It judges by the outward

and not the inward.

3. We now serve in the newness of the Spirit **6** But now we are delivered 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.**

a. We live in the newness of the Spirit not the deadness of the law

b. Doing right is now written on our hearts not on tablets of the heart. The desire is from the inside not the threat from the outside

c. The law killed us but the Spirit gives life

II Corinthians 3:6 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.

d. The law was the ministry of death to bring us to the ministry of the Spirit **II Corinthians 3:7** But if the **ministration of death, written and engraven in stones,** was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which *glory* was to be done away: **8** How

shall not the **ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?**

- e. We were meant to live in the newness of the Spirit, moment by moment obeying, yielding, asking Him what is next instead of trying to follow threatening laws

4. Practical application

- a. We serve God not in the old law but in the newness of the Spirit
- b. The law nor sin any longer have dominion over us. We are in Christ. We died in Him and we live in Him
- c. God used the law to bring us to Christ, to cause us to see our need of grace. It does not make us holy. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to make us holy
- d. Serving God is not about the externals but the internal that will affect the external. We do because we are
- e. Trying or focusing on the law and externals will have several effects on you
 - i. It will make you judgmental
 - ii. It will frustrate you
 - iii. It will cause you to be bitter and give up

- iv. It will cause you to learn to make excuses for your behavior
- v. It will suck the joy from your Christian life
- f. You can't really live what you aren't and if you are you will live it out