

Romans 7:1–6

¹ Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?

² For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.

³ So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.

⁶ But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

Our New Marriage ***Romans 7:1-6***

INTRO:

We are not studying justification in **chapters 6-7**, we are studying sanctification. Justification is by grace alone through faith alone. Sanctification follows justification and is the essence of **Philippians 2:12-13**. ***“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”*** The chapter division obscures the fact **Romans 7:1-6** from the discussion in **Chapter 6**. Paul answered the question he raised in **6:14**. ***“For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”*** How will sin have no dominion over us if we are not under law, but under grace?

I. The Illustration (verses 1-3)

II. The Application (verses 4-6)

I. The Illustration (verses 1-3)

Romans 7:1–3 ***“Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.”***

A. The Apostle Paul continues his argument from **Chapter 6** by saying “*or*” and again stating a principle that is self-evident. The law is not enforceable when someone is dead.

B. To demonstrate this Paul uses the illustration of marriage. This is not an exhaustive primer on marriage. In fact, all questions and conditions of marriage are not in focus here. Only the point that the wife is bound to her husband until death. Under normal circumstances the covenant of marriage lasts for life and ends at death. She is free to marry another. This is the entire point Paul is making in the illustration.

II. The Application (verses 4-6)

Romans 7:4–6 *“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, in order that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter”*

A. The application is the conclusion drawn from the illustration. Why do we who not under law but under grace not become lawless and sin without caring about sin?

1. Something happened to us when we put our trust in Christ and God saved us.

“My brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ,”

Paul talked about this in **chapter 6**. Remember how Paul emphasized how in our union with Jesus Christ we died together with Him and rose from the death together with Him. Then in **6:9-10**, Paul wrote:

“Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.”

In our union with Jesus Christ we have in principle been delivered from the domination of sin through His death on Calvary. We have been changed when God saved us. This is not to say we will have complete victory over sin. Because of this we can please God in Christ.

2. ***“In order that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead in order that we should bear fruit to God.”***

This part is more difficult for men to grasp than women. We died to sin and the law in order that we might remarry and be married to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord’s picture of our union with Him and His love for us who make up His church is marriage. We have a new spouse we must love, honor, and cherish. The result of this is that we can bear fruit to please God.

B. The result of this new union with the Lord Jesus Christ is demonstrated in a before and after snap shot of our whole lives.

vs.5-6 *“For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”*

1. Picture one (**verse 5**) is ugly. This is not doctored to look evil. It is evil and terrible. Before we put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, we were still only in Adam. When we were still lost, the Law, which shows us the holiness and purity of our God, instead of urging us to live righteously was used to stimulate sin and worked in us to produce rebellion to God and death. Remember the wages of sin is death.

2. **Verse 6** gives us the picture of what happened after we were saved. *“But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”*

(1) We have died to the condemnation of the Law. This happened when in our union with Christ we were crucified with Him. **(2)** The result is that *“we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”* What does this mean? This implies the New Covenant when the LORD said instead of the Law written on stone, we will have the Law written in our hearts. The Law is no more outward compulsion but inward desire. We want to live for Him who died for us!

What Are We To Learn Here?

1. When God saved us by grace apart from works, we are not unchanged. Remember the chorus that so well summarizes what has happened to us.

Things are different now
Something happened to me
When I gave my life to Jesus
Things are different now
I was changed, it must be,
When I gave my heart to Him.
Things I loved before have passed away
Things I love far more have come to stay.
Things are different now;
Something happened that day
When I gave my heart to Him

2. We must struggle against sin because we are now united to Christ. We will grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and have more and more victory over sin and can please God because we belong to Him.

Do you belong to Him?

Hymn #504 *He Touched Me*