

Freed from the Law; Joined to Christ **Romans 7:1-6**

In chapter 7 Paul explains our relationship to the Law. Three questions pop up in 7:1,7,13: What is its role of the Law in one's life? Is the Law itself sin? Does the Law cause death?

Principle: The Law only controls the living. 1

- *Or don't you know* (as in 6:3) = Paul assumes his readers do know they aren't under the Law (Mosaic), referring to 6:14,15.
- Basic principle = The Law only has authority over the living.
Man here = person (NASV, ESV, RSV), as is obvious in v. 2.

Picture: The Law of marriage only controls the living. 2,3

This basic principle is illustrated in the case of the death of a husband and a widow's freedom to then remarry, I Cor. 7:39. Remarriage otherwise would be seen as adultery (divorce is not an issue here, nor is this a relevant passage for divorce).

Point: We are dead to the Law and joined to Christ. 4-6

An Analogy From Marriage



- Paul's analogy appears loose, as referents don't fully match. Here it is we, akin to the woman, who die *through the body of Christ* (his death/ours, as in 6:1-11). Main point = Death has severed the Law's authority over us, Gal. 2:19.
- Our death to the Law enables our *marriage* to Christ, which is a privilege with responsibility → We should bear fruit! See *fruit* in 6:22, Col. 1:10, Jn. 15:1-6, Gal. 5:23ff.
- As in 6:17-23 Paul again contrasts our before and after life-style (*fruit*).

Before: The Law led to sin/held us back from holiness (fruit of death,6:21). But this ≠ the Law's fault, see in 7ff.

After: Now free from the Law we serve (*enslaved to God*, 6:22) in newness (6:4) of the Spirit (2:29). Since we are now freed from the Law to serve Christ, beware of going back, as Paul warns in Gal. 5:1.