

Unashamed, Sermon Series on Romans

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READ IT

Romans 7: 1-6 (ESV)

Or do you not know, brothers - for I am speaking to those who know the law- that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she married another man she is not an adulteress. Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

REVIEW IT

Paul lays down the principle which he assumes his readers know: the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives. So the law is for life; death annuls it. Paul senses this is a legal axiom which is universally accepted and unchallengeable.

As an illustration, Paul chooses marriage. This illustration is NOT about marriage, but rather the law verses new life in the Holy Spirit.

Point #1: The contrast is clear: it is the law that binds her, but the death of her husband frees her.

Point #2: Only death can secure her freedom from the marriage law and give her the legal right to remarry. By law, she is bound to her first husband but his death has legally terminated what binds her to him.

NOW PAUL TURNS FROM HUMAN LAW TO THE LAW OF GOD.

Paul implies that we were previously married to the law and under its authority but death has brought about a change of status.

Through our personal union by faith with Christ, we share in his death. We have died to sin, meaning we no longer bear its penalty, which is death! Therefore to die to sin and to die to the law are identical.

As we die to sin by our union with Christ's death (Romans 6:3) so we die to the law through the body of Christ (7:4).

As we have been justified and freed from sin (6:7,18) so we have been released from the law (7:4).

As we have shared in Christ's resurrection (6:4-5), so we now belong to him who was raised from the dead (7:4).

As we now live in newness of life (6:4), so we now serve in newness of spirit (7:6).

As the fruit we reap leads to holiness (6:22), so we bear fruit to God (7:4).

In chapter 6, Paul contrasted 2 slaveries. Now at the beginning of Chapter 7, he contrasts 2 marriages. Death is necessary for the dissolving of the first and in doing so permits the second one to proceed.

We are no longer bound to the letter of the law, written on stone. We have entered a newness of life where the Holy Spirit writes the law of God on our hearts.

- We have been released from the Law
- We are no longer slaves to sin but to God through the death of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit
- We were once walking in the flesh but now we walk in the Spirit
- We once bore fruit for death but now we bear fruit for God

DISCUSS IT

Compare the two slaveries in Chapter 6 with the two "marriages" in Chapter 7. How are we now free to be slaves to God and why are we no longer bound to the Law but to newness of life in the Holy Spirit?

Talk about the comparisons between Chapter 6 and Chapter 7.

PRAY IT

Dear Lord, thank you that I am no longer bound to the law and its penalty of death. Thank you that I can walk in newness of life through the Holy Spirit. Show me how to walk in that new life. Enable me to bear fruit for you! Help me show others how to be freed from duty and how to serve in freedom with love. In Jesus name, Amen

APPLY IT

Imagine you were under a heavy burden like a debt and you were freed from that. That is what you have in Christ...release from the debt. What do you do after you are released? Do you go back into debt? Or think of a tree that bears fruit, like an apple tree. What does your fruit for God look like? Fruit for God could be serving at church in a ministry that gives you joy, teaching others about Christ, helping a neighbor or getting involved in missions. Pray and ask God to give you direction in how you can serve him!