

I) V1-6 INTRO: Or do you not know brethren for I speak to those who know the

At this point Paul speaks to those who respect the validity of the Law

II) He is building on something he had earlier written

Ro 6:14 Sin shall not have *dominion* over you, for you are not under law but *under grace*

III) He has made it clear that the Christian is dead to sin but alive in Christ

Believers are dead to sin, and we are also dead to Moses' Law

IV) He had said that sin shall not have dominion over the believer

He now says that the Law does not have dominion over believers either

V) V1 I speak to those who know the law: it no longer has *dominion* over you

To illustrate how it no longer has *dominion*, he uses marriage as an example

VI) Marriage exists as long as both partners are alive

When one of the marriage partners dies, marriage no longer exists

It ends when one of the people dies

VII) This is what happens when someone comes to faith in Jesus

Service to God is based on God's grace and is no longer built on the law

This is because the law of Moses regulates *the living*, not the dead

VIII) V2 For the woman who has a husband is *bound by the law* to her husband as

Under Mosaic Law, marriage is intended to be *permanent*

This is something that Jesus taught

Mt 19:5-6 For this reason a man shall *leave* (abandon) his

father and mother and be *joined* (glued) to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So, then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined (*yoked*) together, let not man separate.

IX) When her husband dies, she can remarry

The Law does not command her to remain a widow for the rest of her life

1 Co 7:39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only if he loves the Lord

I) V3 So then if while her husband lives she marries another man she will be

Under Law, she is not free to divorce her husband and remarry by whim

If she does so, she would be an adulteress

II) Each party is bound to the other; the death of either dissolves the marriage

III) V4 Therefore my brethren *you also* have become *dead to the law* through the

You have become dead to the power of the law

IV) The Law is like a first husband who has died

It is now dead and no longer has power over us

V) We are now *free* from the law and can be married to Jesus

Eph 5:31-32 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about *Christ and the church*

2 Co 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you *to one husband*, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

VI) V5 For when we were *in the flesh* the passions of sins which were aroused by

In the flesh refers to our lives *before we were born again* of the

Spirit of God

VII) *The passions* (evil desires) of sin were aroused by the law
Passions of sins refers our *inward state* that leads us to sin

VIII) Quote: These passions were, by the law, awakened into activity. They were comparatively dormant till the law said you shall not do this, you shall do that; then the sin nature awoke, active sinning was the immediate consequences.

IX) Result: Produced fruit to death
Jas 1:14-15 Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, *gives birth to death*.

X) V6 But now we have been *delivered* from the law having died to what we were
We now serve God in freedom, *by His Spirit*, not the cold letter of the Law

I) God has written His word upon our hearts
Heb 10:16 This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.

II) V7 What shall we say then? *Is the law Sin?* Certainly not! On the contrary
After speaking in such a way about the law, some might be offended
He had said the law stimulated people to sin! Was this true?

III) V7 Certainly not!
It is not sinful, but what it does is reveal and *defines* sin for me
In doing so it awakens within me my natural sinful inclinations

IV) V7 I would not have known sin except through the law
The *prohibition* becomes the instrument of *exciting* the evil desires in me!

The thing that was forbidden became the thing that I desired!

V) V7 I wouldn't know *covetousness* if the law hadn't forbidden it (Ex 20:17)

**People would have lusted after a variety of things, without guilt
When covetousness was forbidden, what once was normal
became sinful!**

**VI) V8 But sin taking opportunity *by the commandment* produced in me
all**

**Taking opportunity: Using the commandment as a base of
operations**

VII) The commandment became sin's starting point

**It revealed the root of my sin, which is the inner craving of my
nature**

VIII) V8 For apart from the law sin was dead

**Before I knew the law, sin was not *recognized* and its
power unknown**

**I was deceived, thinking myself totally free but was
actually in bondage**

**IX) V9-10 I was *alive once* without the law, but when the commandment
came,**

**I was in ignorance of God's demands for the inner man
When the commandment came, it awakened me to my *sinful
condition***

**Ps 40:12 For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My
iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; They are
more than the hairs of my head; Therefore, my heart fails me.**

**I) V10 And the commandment which was *to bring life* I found to bring
death**

**God's commands were intended to result in spiritual,
meaningful life**

II) This reveals God's intention in giving commands in the first place

Dt 5:29 Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, *so that it might go well with them* and their children forever!

Dt 6:24 The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always *prosper* and be *kept alive*, as is the case today

Lev 18:5 Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them *will live by them*. I am the Lord

III) V11 Sin taking occasion by the commandment *deceived* me and *by it killed me*

Sin seduced me from the right path and encouraged me to sin
It encouraged me to not simply sin, but to give in and pursue it passionately

The result was despair, delivering me over to death

IV) I was seduced into believing I could be gratified and satisfied and I could not

Heb 3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the *deceitfulness* of sin.

V) Sin's draw from *within him* drove Paul to do the things the law forbade

Result: It subjected me to the death the law promised to transgressor

It drove me to despair and made my life miserable

VI) QUOTE: Every sinner is not only exposed to death because he has sinned, and must, sooner or later, die; but he is miserable in both body and mind by the influence and the effects of sin. He lives a dying life, or a living death.

VII) V12 Therefore *the law* is holy and the commandment holy and just and good

It is holy because it brings glory to God

It is good because it exposes and labels sin, establishing

Morality

VIII) It is also good because it drives the sinner to Jesus

Gal 3:23-24 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So, the law was put in charge *to lead us to Christ* that we might be justified by faith.

I) V13 Has then what is good become death to me? *Certainly not*. But sin that it

The law made *sin obvious*, revealing the heart of man

Mk 7:21-23 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man `unclean.

II) V14 For we know that *the law is spiritual* but I am carnal sold under sin

The law is spiritual: it deals with spiritual principles of life and salvation

III) It not only reveals actions that are unacceptable, but also inclinations

Mt 5:27-28 You have heard that it was said to those of old, `You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that *whoever looks* at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

IV) V14 But I am carnal *sold under sin*

I am still here on the earth, dealing with desires that are sinful

V) He is not saying that he does all his inclinations provoke him to

What *he is saying* is that he still is imperfect and deals with his nature daily

This is the warfare that takes place in the heart: The War Within

VI) You can love the Lord but still have desires warring within you

This is because you haven't entered heavenly perfection and know this

VII) Sin taints everything we do and frustrates our desire to please God

VIII) V15 For what I am doing I do not understand *For what I will to do that I do not*

Paul confesses that he finds himself doing what he does not want to do

He desires to perfectly keep God's law, but keeps failing to do so

He wanted to fulfill both *the spirit* and *the letter* of the law, but could not

IX) He was not battling a besetting sin or feeling guilt over past sins

Regarding that, *he knew* he was forgiven

1 Co 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

X) He simply desired to be a better, more faithful servant of the Lord

I) V16 If then *I do* what I will not to do I agree with the law that it is good

The fact I *desire* to do the right thing reveals that *the law* is doing its job

My internal desire to please God reveals that I have been born again

II) When you begin to mature in Christ, your desire to please God increases

If you don't have this desire, it is good to be aware of it!

III) V17 But now it is no longer *I who do* it but *sin* that dwells in me

Paul is speaking about *the internal struggle* to be obedient to God

IV) I retain a *natural inclination* towards a life of *sin*

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would.

V) *Briefly*: The early church father's taught that Christians have two natures

These natures are normally referred to as the *old* and the *new*

natures

VI) The *old nature* is the Adamic nature, because of its tendency to sin
This *old nature* produces a distinguishable, sin tainted life

VII) This *old nature* is also referred to as the *old man* (Ro 6:6)
Eph 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, *the old man* which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts
Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off *the old man* with his deeds

VIII) A *new nature* is received at *regeneration* and is called *the new man*
Eph 4:24 put on *the new man*, which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness
Col 3:10 put on *the new man* who is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him

IX) We receive the new nature when we are born again
1 Pe 1:23 Being *born again*, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever.

I) Though born again, we retain a *desire* and *predisposition* to sin
At the same our *new nature* has a *predisposition* towards living for God

II) Even though we are born again there is a struggle for *domination*
This is why we live by faith, acting upon the promises of God
Ro 6:11 Likewise you also, *reckon yourselves* to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord

III) V18 For I know that in me that is *in my flesh* nothing good dwells for to will is
My carnal humanness has not been perfected and still battles the Spirit
My redeemed person desires to please God, the old man resists doing so

IV) It is not that he is constantly in terrible sin, but that he cannot always

do good

He desires to serve God completely, grieving he is not always successful

V) V19 For the good that *I will* to do I do not do but the evil *I will* not to do, that

This is like what he had just written in V15

My natural desire is not to please God, but to resist Him

VI) V20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it but sin
He is not excusing himself but is explaining the depth of war that rages

This clearly reveals the need for grace and the life of faith

VII) V21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good

I know that when I desire to do good, my old man resists my desires

It manifests itself in enticing me to reject doing the good that I desire to do

VIII) V22 For *I delight* in the law of God according to the inward man

Within me I absolutely find joy in living according to God's requirements

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or set foot on the path of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers. But *his delight* is in the Law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night

IX) V23 But I see *another law* in my members warring against the law of my mind

There is an impulse to do evil that battles against my intellect
This law takes me captive, making me its prisoner

I) V24 O *wretched man* that I am who will deliver me from this body of death

Who will set me free from this constant battle that rages within me?

**Who can deliver me from this dead body that infects my life?
Where does deliverance come from?**

**II) V25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord So then with the
mind**

**I am aware that the battle rages, but look forward to complete
deliverance**

**We look forward to our eventual rescue and life we shall have
with Him!**