

Romans 7:1-6 Married to Mr. Law

Paul uses an illustration of marriage to seal the discussion about our relationship to the Law. Once a spouse dies, we are absolutely free.

Topic- The Law, Grace

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Burden

The Law can only expose our failures, but grace makes us fruitful.

Movements

The Old Marriage That Could Only Accuse (1-3, & 5)

The Death That Dissolved the Bond (4a)

The New Marriage That Bears Fruit (4b-6)

*Hook: Mirror, Plumb Bob, Thermometer

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What is Law?

“The Law” = The Law of Moses

-613 Commands

-365 of which are negatives

“Law” in general is the principle at the heart of human religion:

Give me the requirements, and I'll perform them.

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The Old Marriage That Could Only Accuse

“Or...”

Chapter 7 is Paul's clarification of what he said in 6:14

-For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Joke

Ch6 & Ch7 Parallels:

-6:2 — “died to sin” vs 7:4 — “dead to the law”

-6:18 — “set free from sin” vs 7:6 — “delivered from the law”

-6:4 — “newness of life” vs 7:6 — “newness of the Spirit”

-6:22 — “fruit to holiness” vs 7:4 — “fruit to God”

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“Or do you not know...”

Winger: Some truths are so basic that we assume we understand them, while our entire Christian life can be distorted because we actually don't.

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“Brethren”

Paul hasn't used this affectionate address since Romans 1:13. (Morris)

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“The law has dominion...”

6:14 — “For sin shall not have dominion over you...”

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“As long as he lives”

Law has jurisdiction over living people.

There are only two guarantees in life:

-Death &....

-Taxes!

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“For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives...”

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“The law of her husband”

Marital Law:

-It binds.

-It defines obligation.

-It holds you accountable.

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“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.”

Matthew 19:3-9

Deuteronomy 24:1 — “When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house”

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The Law Does Many Things:

- Law reveals sin — 3:20
- Law condemns — 3:19
- Law defines transgression — 4:15
- Law brings wrath — 4:15
- Law causes trespass to increase — 5:20
- Yet none of these things HELP you.

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The Old Marriage That Could Only Accuse

-The Death That Dissolved the Bond

“You also have become dead to the law”

Romans 6:2-3 — Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

“Through the body of Christ”

-through Christ's actual death.

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How come people still claim that we are under the Law of Moses?

Paul says we are:

- 6:14 — “not under the law”
- 7:4 — “dead to the law.”
- 7:6 — “delivered from the law.”

Some claim it only means “delivered from the PENALTY of the Law.”

But that doesn't fit the illustration:

-The woman isn't released merely from the penalty for violating her marriage covenant. She is released from the actual legal bond that bound her to her husband.

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Ephesians 2:14-15 — For He Himself is our peace... having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances...

Hebrews 8:13 — In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Matthew 5:17-18 — “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

NIV, ESV, NASB - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law”

“Destroy” = *katalyō*(καταλύω); to dissolve to destroy, demolish

-“Fulfill” = *plēroō*(πληρώω); to render full, to complete, to consummate, to carry through to the end

-till all is “fulfilled” = *ginomai*(γίνομαι); to come to pass, to be made, finished

Galatians 4:4–5 — “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

Hebrews 4:15 — “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

John 19:30 — “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

PAUL'S POINT:

-We didn't die to the Law so we could live without a husband.

-We didn't die to the Law so we could come back to it better equipped.

-We died to the Law so we could belong to Christ.

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“That you may be married to another”

The Old Marriage That Could Only Accuse

-The Death That Dissolved the Bond

-The New Marriage That Bears Fruit

Not from marriage to singleness,
but from one marriage to another.

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“that we should bear fruit to God.”

If you take believers out from under Law, won't they become less holy?

-No

-We died to the Law so that we might bear fruit to God.

The Law can command fruit.

-The Law can identify bad fruit.

-The Law can condemn the absence of fruit.

-But it cannot produce fruit.

Sad fact: Christians who would never dream of returning to Law for justification routinely return to Law for sanctification.

*MLJ “Sanctification by law is as impossible as justification by law.”

Galatians 3:3 — Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

“Grace doesn't lower God's desire for holiness. It changes how holiness is produced.”

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“When we were in the flesh”

“In the flesh”

“Flesh,” when used physically, is amoral.

2 John 1:7 — For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Whenever “flesh” is used symbolically it is negative.

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“the sinful passions which were aroused by the law”

*“Don’t Look” folder on PC.

*Nicole in Wedding Dress

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“Having died to what we were held by”

“So that we should serve”

Law/Religion = that we can declare our own righteousness

-Grace/Relationship = empowerment to serve

Religion asks what is required. Relationship asks what pleases Him — and the Spirit then produces it.

Many men would LOVE a simple rulebook for a happy wife, even if it were 613 rules.

-Yet we were called to LOVE our wives...

That's infinitely simpler than 613 rules, yet infinitely more demanding.

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“In the newness of the Spirit”

2 Corinthians 3:6 — who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

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Married to Mr. Law

Men: there is no better way to save your marriage than to know your Savior.

Christian, which husband are you living with?

-Are you still keeping house for a dead man?

Quit trying to be good enough for a husband who is in the grave and go be married to the risen One who simply desires your love.

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Mr. Law was never wrong about you.

“It doesn't matter honey, I still love you.”

Song of Songs 4:7 — You are all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you.

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