

Encounter Church Sermon Notes

August 23, 2026 — Pastor John Vernon



Serving God Living in the Spirit

Romans 7:1-6

1 — Romans 7:1-6

1 Now, dear brothers and sisters—you who are familiar with the law—don't you know that the law applies only while a person is living? 2 For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her. 3 So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries. 4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. 5 When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. 6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

2 — Romans 7:1

1 Now, dear brothers and sisters—you who are familiar with the law—don't you know that the law applies only while a person is living?

3 — Romans 7:1

“...you who are familiar with the law...”

4 — Romans 7:2-3

2 For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her.
3 So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries.

5 — Romans 7:3

3 So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries.

6 — Romans 7:4

4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ.

7 — Romans 7:4

4 ...my dear brothers and sisters...

8 — Romans 7:4

4 ...this is the point:...

9 — Romans 7:4

4 ...You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ.

10 — Romans 7:4 (NASB)

4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ.

11

“thanatoo” = To cause someone to die

12 — Romans 7:4

4 ...And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.

13 — Galatians 2:19-21

19 For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God. 20 My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

14 — Romans 7:4

4 ...As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.

15 — Romans 7:4 (ESV)

4 ...in order that we may bear fruit for God.

16 — Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

17

Two dimensions of godly fruit:

- Attitudes
- Actions

18 — Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

19 — John 15:4-5

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. 5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

20 — James 1:22

22 But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

21 — 1 John 3:18-19

18 Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. 19 Our actions will show that we belong to the truth...

22 — Romans 7:5

5 When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.

23 — Romans 7:5

5 When we were controlled by our old nature...

24 — Romans 8:9

9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

25 — Romans 7:5

5 ...sinful desires were at work within us...

26 — Romans 7:5

5 ...and the law aroused these evil desires.

27 — Romans 7:7

7 ...it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet."

28 — Romans 7:5

5 ...that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.

29 — Romans 7:6

6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power...

30 — Galatians 3:13

13 But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing.

31 — Romans 7:6

6 ...Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

32

Because we have a new way of living in the Spirit, we can love God.

33

We can love & obey His righteous law and have joyful hearts in that love & service.
