

- Free From The Law!
- Last week we found that we are Free from SIN.
- This Week we will find that we are Free from the LAW
- Romans 7
- **¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.**
- **¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.**
- **²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.**
- **²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.**
- **²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,**
- **²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.**
- **²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**
- **²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.**
- Last week, we described ourselves as the new person, a new mankind in Christ Jesus.
- That's our identity. We are new persons.
- God didn't come to improve people. He didn't come to fix anyone.
- He came to kill them and resurrect them from the dead.
- You no longer have a sinful nature.
- It's not just that God helps us be a little bit better.
- He turns us into a totally new person.
- We are now something different than we were before.
- By the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ joins Himself to us and we are now progressively, increasing in conformity to the image of the Lord Jesus.
- If that is the case, *then how on earth did Paul come up with this chapter?*-Far too many believers make this section of Scripture their **life text**.
- *Was Paul describing a condition of someone who is not yet born again?*
- *or was he saying that even mature Christians are doomed to lives of schizophrenia where part of us wants to serve God and part of us wants to serve the devil?*
- **He was talking about the impossibility of serving God in our own power, whether lost or saved.**
- In Romans 6 (last week), we see that we are **free from sin**.
- In this chapter we will see the fact that we are also **free from the law**.
- Even as the law works on someone before they come to Christ to point out their need for Jesus
- the Law continues to drive the Christian to see that in ourselves we are utterly helpless.
- That we are completely weak and unable to obey the Law perfectly.
- Because it is only at that point can we rest completely in Christ.
- If I think that I have an **i-ota** of strength in myself left to live this life,
- then I will concentrate on that "i-ota" of strength.

- **When I know there is nothing left in me that can live this life then I will be forced to rest completely in the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- When we **talk about the Law** let's remember what we mean by that.
- The Law, of course is summed up in the 10 Commandments.
- The very term "**Law**" means that **God is requiring something of me.**
- If there is a **law of the land**, then it means that the land is requiring something from you.
- God's Law means that God is requiring something of us.
- Or we could say that the Law implies the "doing" on my part of certain rules that have to be kept.
- So, every time you read the law you are thinking of your part to do it.
- So, when you read "**thou shalt not bear false witness**" that comes back to you and says that "you must not lie."
- You must tell the truth.
- The world of the Law is:
 - **"you must,**
 - **you should,**
 - **you ought,**
 - **you shall,**
 - **you shall not."**
- The whole **principle of law** is **God requiring that you and I do something.**
- When we **first come to Christ** in those early moments, when I moved out of the old age and come into the new age, in that moment **I know helplessness.**
- I have faced the wrath of God against my sin,
- I have said that is a just, holy, righteous wrath.
- I can do nothing; Christ has done all and so I hopelessly receive Christ's salvation.
- I cast myself upon God's salvation.
- Now at that moment we know helplessness
- **but we rapidly lose that sense of helplessness.**
- We are standing in grace now and we know that we are free from the power of sin.
- We look at the grace of God and we are overwhelmed by the glorious grace of God.
- We are overwhelmed that are freedom in Christ.
- Around us and within us there is the desire to please God. That is natural.
- After all that He has done for us; He lay down His life for us.
- Religious preaching
- I remember when I was little boy, I would hear preaching with those very words: "**after all that Jesus did for you the least you can do for him is...**" and fill in the blank with the latest trend of that day.
- **"After all that Jesus did for you, He rose from the dead, can't you even get out of bed an hour early to pray?**
- **"Because God has shown to you such grace, the least you can do is give your life the way to Him by going to the mission field.**
- **Not because God called you, but because Jesus had died for you**

- **The least you could do is die in a malaria filled swamp preaching the gospel. That's the least you could do to show your thanks for God."**
- I'm sure you've heard it.
- But that sounds logical.
- Surely, I can thank Him by doing better than I did before.
- Surely, I should be able to do better now.
- I mean I am no longer under the power to sin.
- Sin no longer has dominion so surely I should be able to do better than I did before.
- And if you join the church, of which there are many brands-Styles, you're probably presented with the rules.
- *
- The Rules
- **The rules** can be anything from you must not go to the **movies**,
- you must not drink **wine**,
- all the way through to ladies you must not **braid** your hair ladies,
- you must not wear makeup or earrings.
- girls can't wear pants.
- You must wear a suit or dress to church because God expects your best
- Susie and I broke all the RULES.
- 15 min. of Bible reading and 15 min. prayer everyday.
- And we did our thing hoping that God was really pleased with us because He had listened to us for half an hour, and we would grow.
- If we did our devotion time, we felt pretty good about ourselves spiritually.
- If we didn't, we felt pretty lousy.
- **And then there is fasting.** Surely God would be well pleased with me if I fasting.
- **Fasting is like Master's Level Christianity!**
- I would go without meals and do without desserts to show Him how much I love Him. I am giving things up because He gave up so much for me
- I appreciate what He did, and I want to grow and become mature.
- Oh, if you really want to please God **you have got to witness.**
- And so, you armed with pocketful of tracks and your Giant Bible, and you are ready to win the world for Christ.
- *What's happening?* **We are trusting in our ability to keep the rules, to obey the Law.**
- The rules, whether they be in the Bible or added onto the Bible by the church over the last hundred years, **whatever the rules maybe we are trusting our ability to keep those outside rules.**
- We've gone back to the definition of the law which is God requiring of me that I do something for Him.
- And we can judge our spiritual maturity before God based on our ability to keep the rules.
- If you keep all the rules, then you must be spiritually mature.
- Your behavior is the way in which you are judged as "in Christ" or "out of Christ."

- If you begin to get lax in the rules, then we bring in a word that is not found in the New Testament—“backsliding.” It is never a word in the new covenant and in the Old Covenant it referred to nations not individuals,
- It is a great word to bring condemnation to those who are not keeping the rules perfectly.
- So, you are backsliding, you are not keeping the rules good enough
- The message I heard growing up could be summed up in this: **You aren’t doing enough. You need to try harder and do better.**
- Of course, this produces hypocrisy very quickly.
- It becomes rapidly clear that you cannot keep the rules.
- You discover that whatever you learned in Romans six is not working.
- **“Sin shall not have dominion over you.”**
- And I find that I'm **losing my patience.**
- I'm going to really trying now because I want to please Jesus.
- *Have you ever become impatient that you are losing your patience?* “That's bad.”
- When you are angry that you are getting angry, that is real anger.
- This poor man is now getting desperate.
- Because he really does want to be like Jesus.
- I remember when I read my Bible just for the enjoyment of it and sometimes missing a day was no big deal.
- **Romans 7** people.
- They would ask me, **“have you had your quiet time today?”**
- **I must keep you accountable (translation: I am here to enforce the rules and bring condemnation on you if you do not do them perfectly. I am not here to help you grow or follow through on your intention, I am here to remind you of how short you are falling.)**
- I am not against accountability, *but are you holding people accountable to the Law or to the Spirit?*
- **“How long did you read your Bible today?” “I don’t know, I didn’t have a stopwatch.”**
- **“You have got to be disciplined.”** ---And so, I went along with what I was told.
- And so, I would read the Bible for 60 min. every day.
- It was like the Bible turned into sand in my mouth. I was bored to tears.
- I could visit with God all day long until someone said that I had to have my quiet time.
- Then it is like visiting hours with God
- I pray and pray and pray all around the world and I look at my watch and only 3 minutes had gone by.
- -That is the law.
- -That is, you trying to please God.
- -It doesn't work.
- -You end up crying out **“O wretched man that I am”**
- And then comes all the rededication's and re dedications.
- More promises and more promises.
- **“I will keep the rules. I will keep the law. I will draw all my natural strength to show God that I am very grateful for what He has done.”**

- I have heard it so many times, “if only I could be stronger. More disciplined-that's what I need.”
- Or someone else says, “I'm praying night and day that God would give me more power so I can do his will.”
- **God is not going to make you any stronger. Let me clue you in to his purposes: He is in fact making you weaker.**
- **-And the reason you are not stronger is because you are not weak enough.**
- For that is why the Law is there: that even though I am in Christ, even though Christ is my life,
- if I draw upon my natural resources to seek to please God I shall fall back into sin and sin and sin.
- God is not in the business of improving us so that one day we will be able to love like Him.
- Left to ourselves we will never be able to love like Him.
- **The miracle is that He lives His love inside of us.**
- **And so, for us to be alive is not us trying to be like Jesus or trying to please God, it is Christ living His life in us as us.**
- We don't see it, so the Law must come.
- The Law must keep showing us that we are weak, weaker than we thought.
- There is a greater potential for **anger** in you than you ever dreamed. *You are far more **impatient** than you think you are.
- **And therefore, the whole Christian life results itself in continual, glorious weakness.**
- It is weakness embraced that says, “**God, may you live through me in every way.**”
- So, it is like when Paul said, “**When I am weak then I am strong.**”
- He did **not** say “**when I am weak that will lead to strength**”;
- he said, “**in the very moment of weakness I am strong.**”
- **I have learned and am still learning to embrace my weakness and love it.**
- That's the way that God made me and that's the Way, God intended it.
- **You and I were created to be in relationship with God and in Him to live and move and have our being.**
- *Why does the Law have nothing to do with the Christian?*
- At the beginning of the chapter of **Romans seven** there is an illustration Paul uses;
- he gives us a **fantasy illustration**.
- Romans 7
- ¹**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?**
- ²**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.**
- ³**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 marries another man she is not an adulteress.**
- ⁴**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.**

- **⁵For 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.**
- **⁶But now we are 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.**
- First, you have a husband.
- This husband is an absolute perfectionist.
- He knows exactly what he wants and is very quick to say exactly what he wants.
- His demands are endless.
- From the minute his poor wife opens her eyes until she drifts to sleep, her husband has the demands of absolute perfection.
- But, to fulfill those demands, he gives her no help at all.
- She is very frustrated about it because all that he is demanding, she must be honest, is not unreasonable.
- It is right really.
- The wife in this illustration is the very opposite of her husband.
- She is not the picture of perfection.
- She's extremely clumsy.
- She trips over everything.
- Every time she tries to serve him what he wants she drops it or spills it.
- This poor clumsy woman who is never able to do what her husband demands.
- She meets with her husband on many occasions and makes promises that this time it's going to be different
- but as she gets up from the chair she falls over the table and spills it all over the carpet.
- She can't stand her husband. She just wishes the man would die so she could marry somebody else.
- But the man won't die.
- And so, she dies.
- And, in another dimension, she marries someone else.
- And that someone else, his demands are even higher than her first husband, the only difference is he does it all for her.
- He makes sure it's all done, and he just loves her and gives her all the ability and adequacy to do what he demands.
- That's Paul's fantasy illustration.
- *What's it about?* You and I in the old age, we were married to the law of God.
- There is no more a demanding husband than the Law of God.
- **“You can't do this; you must do that. You must do this; you must go here.”** Demands, demands, demands.
- *Can you ever please that husband?* Whatever you did was wrong., We tripped over every demand He made.
- Every time we tried to fulfill it was no use. We lived a life of clumsiness.
- We dreamed **"if only the law would go away; if only the law would die."**
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- I'm sorry. The law will never die.
- Because the law is the expression of God's holiness.

- There is nothing wrong with the law at all.
- The law is beautiful.
- The law is holy, the law is right, the law is a tenfold manifestation of God's righteousness.
- The law will not die. So, I'm stuck with this.
- If the law won't die, we can.
- And so, United to Jesus in his finished work (we looked at this last week); 18 times in Romans 6 Die
- **As Jesus dies to that old age, as Jesus takes you and I into himself and exits that age by death,**
- **I die to my old husband the law and I rise again in the new dimension of the body of Christ, the new age, the new man.**
- **And in that miracle, we are married to Christ, the new husband.**
- **And He does not let down on any of the demands of the law.**
- In fact, his demand is summed up in one word: love, even as God loves.
- But he doesn't just command us, he becomes to us our very life.
- And being our life expresses love through us and achieves everything the law was ever after;
- but not by struggling to keep it, but by his life expressed through us.
- **The law means that God requires something of me.**
- **It means that some doing on my part must be fulfilled.**
- **Then if in Christ we have died to the law and are now joined to Jesus it means that we are delivered from doing.**
- That's what it means. We are delivered from **doing.**
- I am now exempted from trying to keep the law, He achieved what it was after in me and through me.
- I am delivered from doing.
- To please God I do not have to read my Bible everyday.
- To please God I do not even have to pray everyday.
- To please God I do not even have to go to church at all.
- To please God I do not have to witness to another person.
- To please God I did not have to try to keep any of the 10 Commandments.
- I had been exempted from all doing and I'm living from a new principal now, not a principle of law but a principle of life.
- Christ has come to live in me and I have now recognized forever my complete inability to keep law.
- And so in my helplessness I live out of the life that is Christ in me.
- But now I feel that **I love to read word of God.**
- I don't have to, I want to.
- I now want to together with people who have a like mind who praise God.
- I discover that there is rising within me daily, hourly praise and prayer to God. In fact my life becomes prayer.
- There are times when I want to shut the door for an hour. I suppose some may call it quiet time.

- There are times when I want a fast.
- I don't have to but I want to.
- Instead of trying to keep the law I now find that there is one Person inside of me and **He is love.**
- He expresses himself *through me in love* and that is what the law was after all the time.
- The Law is not achieved by me trying to achieve it.
- It is achieved by another just being himself in me and through me.
- *Do you understand what I'm getting at?*
- In this new age, in this body of Christ, it is not a matter of what we do for God.
- The whole thing is us living helplessly out of Another, who is our life.
- **Romans 13:8**-- where he talks about the same thing in another context.
- **for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.**
- ⁹**For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**
- ¹⁰**Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.**
- Love is the fulfillment of the law.
- When I say that we are now no longer to do the law I want you to understand exactly what I mean.
- **I do not mean that Christ in you strengthens you so that you in His strength can keep the law.**
- **When I say Christ is in me as my strength, I do not mean that Christ in me strengthens my natural self, my natural resources so that I now, with His strength, can go keep the law.**
- What I'm saying is that we forget the law altogether.
- It has done its work.
- It has reduced us to despair, and it is over now.
- Now Christ in us is love.
- **And that is what the law was after.**
- I look back and those dear people who gave me those rules. **Why do they give those rules? Why did they tell me to have a Quiet time every day?**
- They really believed that if I did these things than my love for God and my ability to love people would increase.
- **Why did they tell me to witness?** So that you would love your neighbor more. They were desperately seeking and trying to keep rules to achieve love.
- Now Paul says discard the rules.
- The Holy Spirit inside of you is the love of God; and spontaneously expressed will be love to your neighbor and to God. We are living under a new principal.
- We achieve what the rules were after, but we achieve it independently of the rules.
- **To put this in practical terms: this means that if you understand what I'm saying, then from now on you do nothing in order to please God.**
- I have given up trying to please God, realizing that Christ is my life, **is the pleasure of God.**
- It **used to be** that we lived to God, we lived for God.

- We saw that in order to please God, we had to do something.
- So, we drew out of our natural self and natural strength to do something to please God
- Now, we are living from Christ within.
- So, instead of living *to* or *for* God, we are living *from* God.
- **Christianity is not a struggle to become something, it is a choice to let Jesus be! -**
- **¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh (that part of me that is weak and frail apart from divine influence; apart from the influence of the Spirit, there is no good thing.) For I have the desire to do what is right (because I am powerless to do this without Christ) I just don't have the ability to carry it out [when I try to do it apart from completely depending on Christ].**
- **¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.**
- **²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.**
- **²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**
- **²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!**
- Romans 8:2
- **Romans 8:2 ESV**
For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.