

## Romans 7:1-6 The Love of the Gospel

- I. The biblical problem.
  - A. All men are under law.
    - 1. They are all under God's Law.
    - 2. They are all under "natural" law.
  - B. The law rules over (has dominion over) all men.
    - 1. Our natural rebellion is aroused by natural law.
      - a. We can not fly, therefore we invent flying machines.
      - b. We can not swim in the depths of the ocean; therefore we invent machines in which we can swim with the fish.
      - c. We can not survive in a vacuum; therefore we invent machines in which we explore the space around our planet.
    - 2. Our natural rebellion is also aroused by God's Law.
      - a. Romans 3:23: "**For all men have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**"
        - 1) Sinned is past tense.
        - 2) Fall short is present (continuous action).
      - b. Romans 6:23: "**the wages of sin is death.**", therefore all deserve death.
      - c. Men ignore God and exchange the truth of God for the lie.
- II. Paul's biblical illustration.
  - A. A woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he is alive.
    - 1. Paul's message was to Christians with knowledge of the Law of God and the laws of Judaism based on God's Law.
    - 2. The husband is head of the household. He has dominion or lordship over his wife.
      - a. Ephesians 5:23: "**For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church...**"
      - b. Ephesians 5:33: "**and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.**"
      - c. 1 Peter 3:1: "**In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives...**"
    - 3. Therefore, if she is joined to another, she is an adulteress and is condemned by the Law.
  - B. She is released from the Law at the death of her husband.
    - 1. Literally, she is useless from the Law concerning the husband.
    - 2. She is no longer under the dominion of her husband. He no longer reigns over her.
    - 3. She is free to marry another, only in the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:39).
- III. Paul's biblical logic.
  - A. Death dissolves the relationship of obligation.
    - 1. Paul is NOT saying the Law is dead.
    - 2. Paul is NOT saying the Law no longer applies to us.
    - 3. Paul is NOT saying we should ignore the Law.
    - 4. Paul IS saying we are not obligated to keep the Law as a way of salvation; justification; or sanctification.
    - 5. As far as being accepted by God, we don't have to rely on keeping the Law.

- B. We are dead to the obligation of keeping the Law as a way of salvation and therefore we are free to be bound to another.
  - 1. Verse 4: **“Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law...”**
    - a. You were made to die.
    - b. Romans 6:2: **“How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”**
      - 1) Died is past tense – it happened at the cross.
      - 2) We died together with Christ (Romans 6:5).
    - c. We were buried together with Him (Romans 6:4).
    - d. We shall also live with Him (Romans 6:8).
    - e. Therefore, we are commanded to consider ourselves dead to sin, but alive to God (Romans 6:11)

IV. The biblical conclusion.

- A. We have been released from the dominion of the Law.
  - 1. We are no longer required to keep the Law as a way into the presence of God.
  - 2. We still keep the Law in thanksgiving.
    - a. The Law is God’s revelation of Himself to man.
    - b. The Law tells us what God is like.
    - c. We should strive to keep the Law to be more Christ like.
  - 3. We are no longer bearing fruit for death.
    - a. Since we were sinners (Romans 3:23);
    - b. Since every thing we did or do falls short of God’s standard;
    - c. Everything we earned was only death.
- B. **But now we have been released from the Law.**
  - 1. We serve alive.
  - 2. We serve in newness of the Spirit – Immanuel.
  - 3. We are joined to Christ (Christian means “Christ one”)
- C. You were made alive together with Christ for a purpose.
  - 1. Verse 4: **“that we might bear fruit for God.”**
  - 2. Ephesians 2:10 **“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”**
- D. God saves sinners because of His great love.
  - 1. God saves sinners for a purpose.
  - 2. God saves us to bear fruit for Him
  - 3. God saves us for the good works He has prepared for us to accomplish.