

“Serving In The Newness Of The Spirit”

Romans 7:1-13

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Teaching Aim: To understand that a person is bound by the law only as long as he or she lives. To realize that by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, we have died to the letter of the law and are now free to live by the spirit of the law. To recognize that God’s law is holy, just, and good; the problem of sin is not with God’s law but rather with us.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Freed from the law through the cross of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 7:1-5)

1. **Verse 1** seems to indicate that Paul was writing to readers familiar with the Mosaic Law. What is meant when we say someone is “*a Messianic Jew?*” How is a Messianic Jew different from the average Christian? Why do we say that a Messianic Jew is a fulfilled Jew? According to Paul, how long does the law have dominion over an individual? How does this principle relate to the person on death row? How did it relate to the death of Jesus on the cross?
2. What illustration from everyday life did Paul use to illustrate his point in **verse 2**? Marriage is intended by God to be between one biological man and one biological woman for one lifetime. Why do you think so many people are getting divorced today? As society’s view has changed in recent years, so has the divorce rate. Do you see these changes as positively or negatively affecting our country? Why? What are some things that the church can do to strengthen marriage relationships today?
3. What are the only grounds to end a marriage biblically (**vs. 3**)? (See **Matt. 5:31-32; 19:8-9; 1 Cor. 7:10-16, 39**) Define is an adulterer or adulteress? (See Dictionary) Why do you think we don’t see the kind of commitment today in marriage that we’ve seen in previous generations? What do you see as the key or keys to a successful marriage?
4. How are we as Christians connected to the death of Christ (**vs. 4**)? What effect does this mystical union with Christ have on the believer? What does Paul mean by the statement, “*you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ?*”

5. According to **verse 4**, what is the purpose behind our mystical union with Christ in His death and resurrection? Who can the believer now be married to? (See **1 Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 19:6-9; 21:1-4**) What kind of fruit should mark every believer's life after coming to faith in Christ? (See **John 15:4-5; Rom. 6:22; Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 1:10-11**)
6. In **verse 5** Paul talked in the past tense when he said "*when we were in the flesh.*" What part of our lives was Paul referring to? Is there a difference between being "*in the flesh*" before we came to faith in Christ, and living "*according to the flesh*" afterward? If so, what is the difference? What should the Christian do once the flesh begins to reign its ugly head in his or her life? (See **1 John 1:9; Heb. 10:25**) If we live in a lifestyle of sin (*or in the flesh*), what will the end result be? (See **1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21**) What do you see as your biggest battle with the flesh? What are some steps that you can take to defeat this area of sin in your life?

Part II: The power of sin can turn something meant for good into evil (Rom. 7:6-11)

1. According to **verse 6**, what have we been delivered from through our mystical union with Christ? If Christ has freed us from the bondage of the law, how should we live our lives for Him (**vs. 6**)? What is the difference between living under "*the letter of the law*" and living in "*the newness of the Spirit*?"
2. What false charge did Paul anticipate and answer in **verse 7**? Why is it impossible for the law of God to be sinful in any way? On the contrary, what is the purpose of the Mosaic law? (See **Gal. 3:19-25**) What is the meaning of the word "*covetous*?" (See **Exod. 20:17**) How do we see covetousness being involved in the story found in **Luke 12:15-21**? What is the danger of being a covetous person? What does **Luke 12:15-21** teach us about human nature and about not being thankful toward God? Do you find yourself always wanting more or are you satisfied with what God has provided for you?
3. Rather than the law being the underlying cause of sin, what is the source of evil according to **verse 8**? Once someone realizes that something is a sin, there seems to be an inner desire in our sin nature to violate it. What happens when a child sees a "*Wet Paint*" sign? So often, our sin nature rises up and rebels against the commandments of God. Why? Give some examples of how you see society rebelling against God's commandments today.

4. What do you think Paul meant in **verse 9** when he said, *“I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died?”* Before you became a believer in Christ, did you realize that you were at enmity (or war) with God? (See **Rom. 8:5-8**) How was your life changed once you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and understood the teachings of God’s Word? Have you really died to your old sin nature or are you still fighting it?

5. In **verse 10** Paul appears to be making a reference to **Leviticus 18:4-5** and possibly to **Deut. 30:19**. Is there any indication in these Scriptures that complete obedience to the law *“can bring life?”* Is it possible for anyone other than Jesus to be completely obedient to God’s law? (See **Rom. 3:23**) According to **verse 10**, what will our best efforts (*or works*) produce? What is meant by **Leviticus 18:4-5**? How about **Deut. 30:19**?

6. Almost all religions in the world are trying to work their way to heaven, their efforts are misguided and will never lead to salvation. According to **verse 11**, how can *“the works people do”* deceive them and pull them away from the biblical gospel? (See **Eph. 2:8-10**) What is the one way to salvation? When do the acceptable works of the Christian actually begin?

Part III: The law of God is not evil, it is holy, just, and good. (Rom. 7:12-13)

1. According to **verse 12**, is the law sinful or is it holy? What does the word holy mean and how can the law be holy? In what sense does the law reveal the character of God? Why is it to our advantage to obey the principles of Scripture? What happens when we don’t? (See **Lev. 26:14-32**) Contrary to the law being evil as some have blasphemously claimed, what do we learn from **verse 12**?

2. Does the law really cause sin and death, or does it just reveal that we don’t measure up to the standards of God’s holiness (**vs. 13**)? In what way does the law serve as a mirror? What is the only way people can be saved from the consequences of their sin and go to heaven? (See **John 3:16, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Eph. 2:8-9**)

3. Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer? If you need to rededicate your life to Christ, right now would be a great time.

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- A person is bound to the law only as long as he or she lives.
- God intended marriage to be between one biological man and one woman for one lifetime.
- As Christians we have died to the law by being mystically united with Christ in His death on the cross and resurrection through our faith in Him.
- As believers in Christ, we are to bear fruit to God by the way we live our lives.
- We are no longer bound by the letter of the law, but in Christ we are to live by the spirit of the law.
- The law is holy, just, and good; it is intended to reveal our sin and to point us to our need for Jesus Christ.