





## Chapter 6

**Verse 23-** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).*
- *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)*
- *The wages of sin is eternal death (Romans 6:23).*
- *The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23b).*
- *Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9).*

## Chapter 7

**Verse 1-** *Or do you not know, brothers and sisters (for I am speaking to those who know the Law), that the Law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?*

Paul reminds us that he is talking to believers, most of which are ethnic Jews- They know the Law of Moses.

Paul has already told his readers that the Law serves a purpose- to bring us to Christ.

The Law of Moses only applies to those who are alive. Once we are dead, it has no effect on us.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 1-** *Or do you not know, brothers and sisters (for I am speaking to those who know the Law), that the Law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?*

In chapter 6, Paul uses the illustration of slavery to illustrate the truth of living a life of grace. If we are dead to the Law, we are now free to live righteously in grace.

Paul continues teaching with a marriage illustration. If a woman's husband dies, she is free to marry another man (and vice versa). She is no longer under a legal covenant with him because he is dead.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 2-** *For the married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he is alive; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.*

This is a perfect example of someone who is free to enter a new relationship based on someone's death.

*is bound-* *dedetai-* perfect tense, "is permanently bound." A wife could request a husband to divorce her, but she could not divorce him.

The picture is this: Those who are lost are permanently bound to sin. They have no say. Only the blood of Jesus can release them.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 3-** *So then, if while her husband is alive she gives herself to another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress if she gives herself to another man.*

We cannot take this illustration as a perfect expression of our death to sin because, in Paul's example, the law is the husband, and we are the wife. The first husband (the law) would have to die for us to be released (free), but the law never dies. The point is this: Death dissolves bonds. When we identify with Christ's death (second husband), we are free from the first husband. As we are saved, we die to sin and are no longer a slave to it.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 4-** *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you also were put to death in regard to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.*

Paul makes his comparison clear. Our former marriage to the law is broken by our death to it. It then frees us to "marry" a new husband, the Lord, and to produce fruit for God. This could mean "spiritual offspring" (those to whom we witness and win to Christ) or spiritual productivity (the fruit of the Spirit).

## Chapter 7

**Verse 5-** *For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were brought to light by the Law, were at work in the parts of our body to bear fruit for death.*

*we were in the flesh-* We were governed and enslaved to our sinful nature.

*sinful passions-* Our sinful passions, such as lust, anger, jealousy, and ill will, are in contrast to the fruit of the Spirit in the previous verse. Even though we are influenced by sin and will at times volunteer to participate, our lives are no longer driven by our sinful passions!

## Chapter 7

**Verse 5-** *For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were brought to light by the Law, were at work in the parts of our body to bear fruit for death.*

*were brought to light by the Law-* Our knowledge of what is right makes our sinful hearts want to do the opposite even more!

*in the parts of our body-* Being held prisoner to sin is not just expressed in thought crimes. We act out our passions with our physical bodies, hurting ourselves and those around us. All of it leads to nothing but death- always spiritual and sometimes physical.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 6-** *But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.*

Paul restates his point by contrasting the “newness of Spirit” and the “oldness of the letter.” This differentiates righteousness apart from the Spirit (the Law) and righteousness in the Spirit.

*newness-* The Greek has two words for “new,” *neos*- that which is new in regard to the time in which it has been in existence, and *kainos*- that which is new as to quality, as opposed to the outworn or marred through age. (Wuest)

## Chapter 7

**Verse 7-** *What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Far from it! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.”*

Paul has used a marriage analogy, and now he uses the tenth commandment to show how God uses the law to show us we are sinful. Paul has shown the reader that believers are no longer under the law, and now he helps us to see that believers who put themselves under the law will always live a defeated life because they cannot keep themselves from coveting, lying, stealing, committing adultery, murdering, etc.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 8-** *But sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.*

Without the law, there is still sin, but we have a vague awareness of right and wrong (usually in other people) because of the conscience God has given us.

When the written Law reveals sin, it defines it (makes right and wrong clear), and it makes our sinful hearts want to do wrong even more. Paul uses the tenth commandment as an example. Sin isn't perceived as real unless there is a Law to define it.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 9-** *I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin came to life, and I died;*

Paul describes his own life and mankind in general. Before Paul knew the full implication of the law, he felt alive because he misunderstood the purpose of the law.

Before Moses, there was sin but no written law, and people felt the same- they were free to act as they wanted, even though their conscience condemned them. But once God's holy law is revealed and understood, it brings us to the point of death to self.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 10-** *and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;*

When he properly understood the law, Paul realized he was not “good” but a sinner, separated from God. Knowing God’s command about coveting (verse 8) made Paul realize how covetous he really was. Apart from God’s grace, all he could do was covet more.

The more Paul committed himself to the law (as a Pharisee), the more he finally knew he couldn’t do what pleased God. There was no way he could earn eternal life.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 11-** *for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it, killed me.*

There is nothing wrong with God’s law (commandments). They are holy and righteous because He is holy and righteous. Before, Paul thought the commandments brought life, but sin deceived him. They didn’t bring life but showed him that he was already dead without the power of Christ.

Sin deceived him into thinking that he could not covet on his own, but it showed him that he was already dead. He couldn’t do it in his own power.

## Chapter 7

**Verse 12-** *So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

The law is not the problem! God is holy and righteous and good (His attributes), and His attributes are eternal and unchanging (immutable).

It is the inherited sin nature we possess that is the problem. The law brings to light what is already there in us and helps it to grow and flourish.

Law, Sin, and Death

Romans 7:8–11



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**Next week...**  
**Chapter 7b:**  
**“Believers Are  
United in Christ”**

