

## **Freed From the Law**

### **Rom 7:1-6**

Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another — to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. 6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. NKJV

The relationship of the believer to the law has been the subject of controversy since the early days of the church. Paul in his writings brought much of that to an end for about 100 years. But later it began to creep into Christianity again. All of the cults today essentially have a salvation plan based on a law they have established. Some have reverted clear back to the law of Moses that Paul is here referring to. Paul does not go into great detail here but in the epistle to the Galatians he covers the topic throughly. Here Paul is discussing the law as he establishes salvation by grace alone.

- I. What Law are we talking about?
  - A. The Jewish law. V-1
    - 1. “for I speak to those who know the law”
    - 2. Everything from the 10 commandments to the ceremonial law.
  - B. But it is foolish to think that there might be a revised law that could do what the law of Moses could not.
- II. When are we subject to the law?
  - A. As long as we live, until death v-1
  - B. He gives us an example of a wife whose husband dies. V-2-3
    - 1. By law she is bound to him as long as he lives.
    - 2. When he dies, she is freed from him.
    - 3. She can now do what was once unlawful.
    - 4. She is free to be married to another.
  - C. In Christ we are now dead to the law. V-4

1. By the body of Christ i.e. by His sacrifice.
2. It happened that when we became a Christian and were joined to Christ that we died to the law.
3. Paul's point is that now we are not bound by law but by grace.

III. Who now are we subjects to?

- A. To Jesus Christ v-4
- B. As the woman by marrying another after her first husband's death v-4
- C. So now we are married to Christ and subject to Him. V-4
- D. For He has raised us from the dead. V-4
  1. By our new birth we have been born again.
- E. Our purpose now.
  1. Not to bear the same fruit of which we are ashamed. 6:21
  2. But to bring fruit unto God or godly fruit. 7:4
  3. Fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life. 6:22

IV. What was our past condition?

- A. We were in the flesh.
  1. Past tense, for now we are not.
  2. This has the idea of a person who can only identify with the flesh and things of their sinful nature.
- B. Rather than being restrained our sinful passions were only aroused by the law.
  1. Everyone either is or was in the flesh.
  2. Everyone who has not been saved through faith is still lost.
- C. Those sinful passions which were at work in our members only bring death when the fruit is fully matured v-5

V. What has happened to change all of that?

- A. We have been delivered from the law.
  1. The law no longer arouses sinful passions in us.
  2. Our standing before God is no longer on the basis of our obedience to the law.
  3. On our behalf Christ kept the law.

- B. We are now dead to the law.
  - 1. It no longer has any power over us.
  - 2. That is, power to arouse sin in us.
  - 3. We have died to the law through our relationship with Jesus Christ. 6:2
  - 4. We are not free to do what God's law forbids, else we are not free.
  - 5. We are free from the penalty & curse of God's law.
  - 6. Jesus having suffered the penalty for us.
  
- C. We now serve in the newness of the Spirit, not the oldness of the letter.
  - 1. To serve under the letter of the law brings no real desire for holiness.
    - a. But only reward for obedience.
    - b. The Pharisees were great at the letter of the law.
    - c. So are many Christians.
    - d. Many keep the letter of the law.
      - (1) For recognition.
      - (2) For praise.
      - (3) Out of duty.
      - (4) Out of guilt.
      - (5) But not in pursuit of holiness.
  
  - 2. We now serve in the newness of the Spirit.
    - a. No longer in fear but love.
    - b. No longer out of duty but to do His pleasure.
    - c. No longer from guilt but to see His smile.
    - d. No longer do we do just what is required, but all that we can.
    - e. No longer do we hold back but we give our all for Him.
    - f. What else could we do for the One who willingly gave His all for us.

The law was unforgiving. Either you measured up or you suffered the consequences. But in Jesus we find love and forgiveness. When one serves from a heart of love and appreciation, just a look of the eye can guide us. Does He guide you with His eye? Ps 32:8-9 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye . 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, NKJV