

ROMANS CHAPTER 7

Believers being released from the law principle of life with its corresponding affect
Verses 1-6

- Vs 1 OR connects with Rom 6:14
Are you ignorant? (Many believers are.)
The law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives.
You were made to die to the law, that we might bear fruit for
God. Vs 4
- Vs 2-3 The marriage union illustrates what Paul is saying.
Only death dissolves the relationship between husband and
wife.
Death ends the relationship, and sets the remaining one free to
enter into a new relationship of husband and wife.
The union of husband and wife is so tight that it is impossible
(wrong) for either person to join themselves to another.
- Vs 4 THEREFORE
My brethren – applies to believers only – in context, to the
Jews in particular, for they were the ones who were under the
Law. Rom 2:12-14
1. You were made to die to the Law – your connection with it is gone
 2. Through the body of Christ – Jesus not only died for the sins
that they committed while under the Law Rom 3:25-26 but
He joined them to Himself the moment they believed; so
completely that they are now free from the law because He is free
from the Law. Rom 6:5-10
 3. That you might be joined to another – the resurrected Jesus
Christ – God has so identified us with Jesus Christ that our history
(pre-salvation life) has come to an end along with our former
relationships (to sin, law, the world) and everything has become
new 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 2:20 (heavenly people).

4. That we might bear fruit for God Jn 15:1-8; Phil 1:9-11;
Gal 5:22-23
Fruit-bearing is the product of our new relationship with God
through Jesus Christ and it makes NO use of the law in its
production.

- Vs 5 Our past life – in the flesh (not body) Rom 8:8-9
Flesh – a moral state or condition – absence of life, absence
of the Holy Spirit, and control by the fallen nature.
Sinful passions were aroused by the Law (see vs 8-11);
were at work in the members of our body Gal 5:19-21’
bearing fruit for death Rom 6:23a.
- Vs 6 But now – contrast – having been saved – we are in a new position
which is:
Released from the Law Rom 6:14 (that which once held the
Jew, now has nothing to do with him)
Having died (past tense, completed action) to that by which we
were bound.
SO THAT – we serve in newness of the Spirit, and not in
Oldness of the letter.
Said another way – no longer seeking to establish our own
righteousness Rom 9:31, with Rom 10:3-4, but being motivated by the
great love that He loved us with 2 Cor 5:14
The result of this truth:
1. having died, we bear fruit
2. having been released, we serve

VERSES 7-25 Paul shares his experience with us in the hopes that we do not repeat his example. Paul started his life of commitment to God with the effort and intention to live it by the power of his own commitment. In these verses Paul is describing his battle with indwelling sin, as a power; and not sins committed, as a danger. It is Paul himself against the flesh – with the law prescribing a holy walk, but providing no power whatever for such a walk. The conclusion of the test is given in Vs 24.

VERSES 7-12 IS THE LAW EVIL?

Vs 7 If we have died to sin, AND died to the Law, does this mean
 That the Law is sin? PERISH THE THOUGHT!
 Forbidding a thing to one who cannot abstain from that thing,
 Is a way to make him know his own helplessness (bondage).
 “By the Law comes the knowledge of sin” Rom 3:20

NOTE: The law that Paul chooses to illustrate the problem is Deut 5:21.
It says “you shall not DESIRE your neighbor’s ...” It doesn’t say you shall not
take, but desire – who is able to control his heart and therefore call himself
justified? Matt 5:27-28

To sum up the Law, it could be said; “thou shalt not have evil desire”

Vs 8 What’s the human experience? Knowing what I’m supposed
 to not do – only makes me desire to do it. Why?
 Because “the strength of sin is the Law”.
 The Law brings our focus upon sin and sin does the rest.
 (The power to overcome indwelling sin comes from the indwelling
 Holy Spirit, not the Law).

Vs 9 Paul began his Christian walk “alive” apart from the Law.
 Paul had not met a person, not a code, on the road to Damascus.
 (Read Paul’s conversion in Acts 9:17)
 Ananias told Paul that Jesus had sent him to Paul that he might
 regain his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 Paul, like the rest of us, initially thought to “get legal” and thus
 overcome his natural tendency toward sin (desires).
 His experience with this initial effort is a common experience.

NOTE: As a Pharisee of Pharisees, Paul had never experienced this because
An unsaved Jew saw the moral requirements differently than a believer.

An unregenerate Jew was occupied with outward things, and rested there!
If he were ceremonially “clean” and kept the outward trappings, there was
no struggle in his heart. Jesus described it well.
Matt 23:24-28

Vs 10-11 This commandment that I intended to use to solve my sin problem ended up “killing me”. (Paul learned this lesson well!
2 Cor 3:4-11)

Even as a born again person, any hope that the flesh will be able to overcome sin must be abandoned:

- ❖ It is sin that kills – not the law
- ❖ Sin uses the law to deceive even the believer
- ❖ When the law is brought into our relationship with God, death always results.

Vs 12 Paul upholds God and condemns himself!
There is nothing wrong with God or His law; the problem rests with sin which lives within the believer.

Vs 13 Question: Did that which was good (the Law) become a cause of death in Paul? Perish the thought!
It was indwelling sin that caused his death.
It was the commandment that showed sin to be sin.
Utterly sinful – The more fully and widely the Law became involved, the more intense and desperate Paul’s flesh became involved to oppose it.

Vs 14 Paul’s realization is that of a saved individual.
If he were speaking of his pre-salvation life, he would describe it as he does in 1 Cor 2:14-16.
Declaring that he is carnal (of flesh) means that while attempting to overcome indwelling sin with the Law, he had not been able to deliver himself from the power of the flesh.
1 Cor 3:1

Remember there is a way out from under this condition of bondage and its not by using the Law.

As a new believer, we experience joy from our salvation.

After a period of time we realize that justification does not equal practical sanctification.

Watching ourselves we become aware that a real battle appears to be on the horizon. Paul describes this battle in verses 15-23.

Vs 15 Our practice (life) turns out to be less than what we wished.

- Vs 16 The wicked man does what he wants and condemns God's law if it interferes with him.
The believer participates in the same activities but at the same time he knows God's law concerning his actions, and agrees that God's law is right.
In short, Paul's heart agrees with God's Word and God's Way – no matter how far he was from following it.
- Vs 17 This led Paul to a conclusion: There was an unwelcome, hateful presence dwelling within Paul.
- Vs 18 I can will, but I cannot do.
There is no good thing in our flesh – our old selves.
We cannot do the good we wish or will to do.
We are dependant on the Holy Spirit as our only spiritual power, just as on Christ as our only righteousness.
- Verse 18 tells us that to will may be present with us, to work that which is right is not present.
- Vs 19 Like the book of Ecclesiastes, without God, failure and vanity are the fruit of our lives.
- Vs 20 Paul's conclusion from his experience:
Sin is so powerful that it takes control of my life when left to Myself.
- Vs 21 Paul has experimentally discovered a "principle" or law (always true).
Not learning this has lead many believers to ruin.
(Holiness Movement)
Evil will be present with us till the Lord comes.
- Vs 22-23 Paul realized 3 things:
❖ Delight – in God's law in the inner man
❖ Problem – there is a war raging in the members and mind of his body
❖ His defeat – struggling on his own, he sees defeat
- Vs 24 Exhausted man that I am – self hope is gone – someone help me

Vs 25

Someone can help – Jesus Christ – His answer is found in Rom 6:3-14.

Just as the SINNER struggles in vain to find forgiveness and peace, until he looks outside himself to Jesus – the BELIEVER will struggle with indwelling sin until he realizes that the same death of Jesus Christ provides the solution for overcoming indwelling sin.

The word of the cross – of what Christ did there, is the power of God – whether to save sinners or deliver saints.

NOTE: Because of weaknesses, the struggle will continue. Paul concludes the chapter, not with “it’s over”, but rather with it continuing.