

# Death Liberates From the Law

## Romans 7:1-6

In Romans 7:1-6, **Paul's main point is that the law does not have the power make us right with God, and it also does not have the power to make us more like Jesus.** As Christians, we will not bear spiritual fruit by striving to following the law. It is through our union with Christ, having died to the law, that we are now free to bear fruit for God in the Spirit.

### DEATH LIBERATES FROM THE LAW (7:1-3)

*Romans 7:1 (ESV)*

**1** Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?

Paul begins this section by stating the principle that the law is only binding or regulatory on a person while they live. It is through death that one can be freed from the law.

Paul now illustrates his point with an example about marriage in verses 2 and 3.

*Romans 7:2–3 (ESV)*

**2** For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. **3** Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

A married woman is bound to her husband by law. Because of this, she is not free to marry another man. Getting married to another man while her husband is alive makes her an adulteress.

BUT, what changes the situation? Death. If her husband dies, she is no longer bound by that law and she is free to marry another man.

Simply put, the law is authoritative only over those who are alive.

**Death liberates from the law and its bondage.**

Now, in verses 4-6, Paul takes this principal and applies it directly to the believer.

### THROUGH OUR UNION WITH CHRIST, WE ARE DEAD TO THE LAW (7:4-6)

*Romans 7:4–6 (ESV)*

**4** Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. **5** For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. **6** But now we are released from the law,

*having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.*

As Christians, we are now considered dead to the law because of our relationship with Jesus. We are unified with him in his death, burial, and resurrection.

If you sense that the apostle Paul is being repetitive here, you are right. He is driving his point home. He doesn't want us to miss this. Christians are no longer under law, but they are now under Grace. This is the position that we now live in being united with Christ.

Let's go back to the question that Paul raised in chapter 6. Does our freedom from the law create a group of lawless people?

## **DEATH TO THE LAW MAKES US SERVANTS, NOT SINNERS.**

**No. Death to the law creates servants, not sinners.**

### **How can this be?**

We did not die to the law in order to simply float around without control. We are now united to Christ, and to a new kind of life. Notice how Paul switched the analogies. It is not the law that died. We are the ones who died to the Law.

The law no longer has dominion over us, yet we are not lawless people. We now are united with Christ and we are influenced by his spirit. The motivation of our lives does not come from adherence to the law, but it comes from God's grace through our union with Christ. Notice what it says about Christ, "who has been raised from the dead". The person we are joined to is very much alive!

We can now serve in a new way, which is of the Spirit. This is directly opposed to the old way that was found in adherence to the law. This new way, produces actual spiritual fruit for God, and it comes through our union with Jesus.

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