

Lesson 8:  
"Dead to the law...that you may be married to another"  
Romans 7:1-25

**Romans 7:1-6: "...the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives..."**

1. Further illustrating the concept of death "freeing" the one who has died, how long does Paul say that the law "has dominion over a man"? [7:1; Paul speaks of the "dominion" or "reign" of death (5:14, 17; 6:9), of sin (5:21; 6:12, 14), and of law (7:1) in contrast to the "reign" of life (5:17) and of grace (5:21).]
  
2. What example of law does Paul use to make his point clear? [7:2-3]
  - **When** is a woman "released" from the "law" of her husband? [7:2]
  - What happens if a woman marries another man "while her husband lives"? [7:3]
  - However, if her husband **has died** what is her situation if she marries another man? [7:3]
  
3. "Therefore", what does Paul say is the situation of the Christian who has "become dead to the law"? [7:4; this word (Gk, thanatoo) means to be **put to death**, accused under a death sentence (cp 8:13)]
  - What is the purpose of this "marriage" to "Him who was raised from the dead"? [7:4; cp 6:21-22]
  - When we were "married" to sin, what was the "fruit" we bore? [7:5; cp 6:20-21]
  - What "role" does Paul say "the law" had in this process? [7:5; he will further elaborate in 7:7-11]
  
4. What does Paul say is the Christian's current position with regard to the law? [7:6]
  - In what way does Paul say we "have been delivered from the law"? [7:6; cp 6:3-7]
  - What does Paul say is the result of this being "delivered"? [7:6; cp 6:4-6; etc]

**Romans 7:7-12: "...sin, taking occasion by the commandment...by it killed me."**

5. Because he has drawn such a close parallel between the working of law and the working of sin in our lives, Paul answers another possible objection. Is he saying the law needed to be removed because it is sinful? [cp 7:7 NIV] Again, his answer is an emphatic "No!"
  - Rather than **being** sin, what does Paul say the law does? [7:7; cp 5:20]
  - Which sin does Paul use as an example as being "revealed" by the law? [7:7c; cp Ex 20:17]

6. In what way does Paul say sin “used” the law? [7:8; cp v5; Gen 3:1-6]
- What does Paul mean here when he says “apart from the law sin was dead”? [7:8; cp 4:15; 5:13]
7. Though Paul says there was a time when he was “alive” (i.e. innocent, not under a death sentence), what does he say happened “when the commandment came”? [7:9; cp 1:18, 32; 3:21-23; 5:13; etc]
8. What does Paul say was the *intention* of the commandment? [7:10a; cp Gal 3:19; Hab 2:4 (Rom 1:17)]
- However, *because of sin*, what did the commandment end up doing? [7:10b-11; cp 3:20, 23; etc; cp Jesus’ teaching regarding the “hardness of heart” of the Pharisees (Matt 19:3-8)]
9. What, then, is Paul’s conclusion regarding the laws and commandments of God? [7:12; cp 7:7, 13]

***Romans 7:13-25: The law was good, but it could not save man from sin***

10. Now Paul anticipates yet another possible objection – has the law, which is good, *become* death (i.e. become *responsible* for or *to blame* for death)? How does Paul answer this “charge” – what, in fact, is the *culprit* for the death of men? [7:13]
- Because the law is good, what is the real result of sin’s shameful abuse of the commands? [7:13b; cp 1:18; 2:13, 23-25; 3:19-20, 23; 4:15; 5:13; 7:7; etc]
11. What does Paul say “we” (all men, Jew and Gentile alike) *know* about the law? [7:14; cp Rom 2:14-15, 26-29; 7:12; see also 1:32; etc]
- Even so, what does Paul say his condition is? [7:14b; cp 6:16]
  - What does Paul say is “proof” of this condition? [7:15; cp 6:20-21]
12. Now go back and look at Romans 7:6. Paul’s argument has been to show the difference between serving “in the newness of the Spirit” and serving “in the oldness of the letter”. What did serving only according to “the letter” of the law bring him? [cp 6:21, 23; 7:5, 8-11, 13-15]
- What, however, is the blessing toward those who serve under grace “in the newness of the Spirit”? [cp 6:22-23; 7:4]
  - These things being so, what does Paul conclude about the law even as he looks at his own life that the letter of the law would condemn? [7:16; cp 7:12; see again 1:32]

13. Why, after all, does Paul say he ends up doing these things that he does not “understand” nor “will” to do? [7:17 (see v 15)]
- Compare the similar language in Gal 2:20, Eph 5:18-19, and Col 3:16. In all of these cases, was the “dwelling” done **apart from** the individual’s will?
  - Therefore, is Paul saying that he is **not responsible** for the sin that “dwells” in him? [7:17, 20-21]
14. Where does Paul say the problem lies – in his **will**, or in his **practice**? [7:18-19]
- Why does he say (again) that is the case? [7:20 (see v 17); cp 6:12-14]
15. What does Paul (woefully) admit that he has found about himself? [7:21]
- What does he offer as “proof” of this situation? [7:22-23]
  - Thus, if left to himself and to the law’s lack of power to justify him, what is Paul’s desperate situation? [7:24-25b]
16. Remember: all of Paul’s illustrations have been building upon a prior conclusion that “we...died to sin” and can no longer live in it (cp 6:1-7, 11; 7:1-4, 7-12; etc). So what does Paul exclaim as **the only answer** to the problem of sin and death? [7:25a; cp 6:3-6, 8-10; 7:4, 6; etc]