

NO MORE A SLAVE TO LAW

Part 1 Romans Chapter Seven

Romans 7:1-4

*Or do you not know [are you ignorant] brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion [lords it over] 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.

This chapter is often misunderstood and wrongly taught. Preachers often teach this chapter as instruction as to HOW TO LIVE the Christian Life, but it is not teaching HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, IT'S TEACHING HOW NOT TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

They teach: THIS IS ABOUT THE STRUGGLE WE HAVE IN OUR JOURNEY OF SANCTIFICATION BUT ... THIS IS ABOUT THE STRUGGLE WE HAVE WITH THE LAW.

LOOK HOW MANY TIMES 'THE LAW' is mentioned in our opening verses.

SIX TIMES in 4 verses. So Paul is obviously talking about 'THE LAW'.

NB: This is The Ten Commandments but also any law that tells us how to behave better.

THE GENERAL CONTEXT – JUSTIFICATION

PREVIOUSLY IN ROMANS 3, WE LEARNED ABOUT JUSTIFICATION – THAT THE LAW COULD NOT JUSTIFY US OR MAKE US RIGHT WITH GOD. WE SAW THAT NO ONE COULD LIVE UP TO ITS DEMANDS AND EVERYONE WAS JUDGED GUILTY.

Romans 3:20 **SLIDE**

Therefore by the deeds of the law [trying to keep the Law] no flesh [person] will be justified in His [God's] sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20 NLT

For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

SLIDE

So, for more than 1500 years, millions of dedicated men and women had been trying to become accepted by God and declared right with God by keeping the law ... and ... **NOT ONE HAD SUCCEEDED** ... making the law seem like a failure for trying to make men and woman right with God, but it was the opposite. **THIS FAILURE MADE THE LAW A SUCCESS.** HOW???

THE LAW'S PURPOSE was not to change our fallen nature – the purpose of the law was to show all people that no matter how good we might try to be ... no matter how dedicated

we were ... WE STILL COULD NOT ACHIEVE THE STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT THE LAW DECLARED. THE LAW SHOWED US OUR FAILURE.

Romans 3:20 tells us, *'By the law is the knowledge of sin.'*

So, after 1500 years and millions of people failing ... the law achieved what it had come to do. It showed us we were unrighteous. **THE LAW WAS A SUCCESS!**

Romans 3:9, 19 ... Galatians 3:22

GOD NOW PROVIDED ANOTHER WAY TO BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS

Romans 3:21-22 SLIDE

*But now the righteousness of God **apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, **through faith** in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who **believe**.*

Romans 5:1

*Therefore being **justified by faith** [not by keeping the law] we have peace with God.*

THIS IS JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH.

BUT IN ROMANS CHAPTER 7 PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT -

SANCTIFICATION BY FAITH

THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

LOOK AT WHAT PAUL HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT IN CHAPTER SIX.

He's been teaching about **yielding** ourselves as a servant of righteousness and our members as instruments of righteousness. (Romans 6:13)

THIS MEANS we're not only made righteous on the inside but we're living righteousness on the outside. **It's one thing to be declared righteous ... it's another thing to live righteous.**

OUR MORTAL BODY AND OUR LIVES NOW START TO EXPRESS WHO WE ARE ON THE INSIDE.

THIS IS CALLED SANCTIFICATION WHICH IS HOW CHAPTER 6 CONCLUDES.

Romans 6:22 Berean Literal Bible SLIDE (second last verse in Romans 6)

*But now, having been set free from sin, and having become slaves to God, you [reap] **fruit unto sanctification**, and the end is eternal life.*

WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is (hagiasmon) which means to be pure ... without stain and separated to God and from the world system.

THE SITUATION

However, what's happened here in Romans 7 is, a group of Romans who knew the law started to see how they needed to bring their unredeemed flesh into **SANCTIFICATION BY USING THE LAW.**

Yes, we know we're forgiven of every sin past, present and future ... we know we died to sin and we are crucified with Christ ... so now we will apply the law to our flesh members –
WE WILL MAKE OUR MORTAL BODY SERVE GOD BY OBEYING LAW

SLIDE

SO PAUL YELLS, 'NO! NO! NO! JUST AS ...

- **THE LAW COULD NOT PRODUCE JUSTIFICATION**
- **THE LAW CANNOT PRODUCE SANCTIFICATION**
- **THE LAW CANNOT / WILL NOT HELP YOU LIVE GODLY'**

THIS IS WHAT PAUL IS SAYING HERE IN THE WHOLE OF CHAPTER 7

PAUL ALSO TELLS THEM, IF YOU DO THIS ...

THEN THE LAW WILL BE YOUR MASTER AND YOU WILL BE A SLAVE TO THE LAW.

See our text:

Romans 7:1 SLIDE

Or do you not know [are you ignorant] brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion [lords it over] over a man as long as he lives?

PAUL IS SAYING, 'Don't you know that just as sin was lording it over you and you were slaves to sin ... the law does the same thing ...?'

THE LAW LORDS IT OVER YOU AND YOU BECOME A SLAVE TO THE LAW.

TODAY THERE ARE MANY, MANY SLAVES TO LAW. People who are always trying to measure up to some standard to gain favour with God and man
You see it with people who are so intense about their ministry and calling.
Uptight ... serious ... always having to DO and never just allowed to BE.
THESE PEOPLE ARE SLAVES TO LAW.

Religious older people ... stale, serious types who preach 'HOLINESS', where you must give up all pleasure in this life. They separate themselves. **THEY ARE SLAVES TO THE LAW.**

CHAPTER 7 HAS NO MENTION OF JESUS UNTIL THE LAST VERSE...

That's because, anyone trying to succeed by the Law excludes Jesus.
Jesus isn't their sanctification – they are.

Sister, lemme tell you about a vision that I saw

You were drawing water for your husband, you were suffering under the law

You were telling him about Buddha, you were telling him about Mohammed in the same breath

You never mentioned one time the Man who came and died a criminal's death.

FLESHLY EFFORT AS OPPOSED TO SPIRIT SURRENDER

Romans 7:1 SLIDE

Or do you not know [are you ignorant] brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion [lords it over] over a man as long as he lives?

NB: 'AS LONG AS YOU LIVE'. This can mean living in your own strength and by your own ability, but every effort you make to try and improve your flesh and behaviour puts you back under bondage. You are still trying to measure up to the Law's impossible standards ... it is lording over you. It's keeping you in bondage.

AS A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST ...

WE HAVE DIED TO THE LAW BUT COME ALIVE UNDER GRACE Romans 7:4

Romans 6:14 **SLIDE**

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Also (Romans 5:17)

Just as we died to sin when Jesus died ... We also died to the Law.

We have NOW been raised to New Life **under the reign of grace.**

THE GUILT OF SIN BRINGS US BACK UNDER LAW

See the story from 'CHURCH WITHOUT RELIGION', chapter 6, page 95.

We also see here in chapter 7 of Romans, Paul testifies that he tried to live by **the Law** as a born again Christian and confesses he couldn't do it.

Romans 7:9 **SLIDE**

I was alive once without the law [I was living without the Law (when he had been born again)], but when the commandment came [when I came back to the Commandment], sin revived and I died.

*He declares that trying to live by **the Law** as a Christian **KILLED HIM** ... took him out from under 'the life realm' and out of grace ... to try and live up to a standard of moral living.*

THE FOCUS ON THE FLESH

As we've seen in Romans 3:20, the function of the Law is to make sin known.

*Therefore by the deeds of the law [trying to keep the Law] no flesh [person] will be justified in His sight, for **by the law is the knowledge of sin.***

THE LAW CONTINUALLY POINTS OUT PEOPLE'S FAILINGS AS THIS IS ITS FUNCTION ...

OF COURSE THIS CEASES AFTER WE ARE A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IN JESUS,

YES?

NO IT DOESN'T!

THE LAW CONTINUES TO POINT OUT OUR FAILURE / SIN / INADEQUACIES

There we were, living free under grace and suddenly we sin ... or some legalist tells us we should be more holy... Someone 'kindly' points out our faults ...

So we become conscious of our failing flesh again and we try to fix it.

NOW WE DEPART FROM UNDER GRACE AND GO BACK UNDER LAW ... TRYING TO FIX SOME FLESHLY FAILURE.

The wife imposes rules for her husband.

The husband imposes rules for his wife ... depending on who wears 'The Pants'.

Husband, 'I want my dinner on the table when I get home'.

Wife, 'I want the rubbish taken out every night before I start cooking'.

IF YOU ARE FOCUSING ON YOUR FAILURE ... IF YOU ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE YOUR BEHAVIOUR ... THEN YOU'RE NOT SUBMITTED TO THE SAVIOUR ... YOU ARE STRUGGLING UNDER LAW.

THE ANOMALY ABOUT OUR FLESH AND TRUE SANCTIFICATION

IT NEVER WILL BE PERFECT TILL JESUS COMES

Your issues will keep rising again and again ... accept them as the unredeemed flesh, then bow your new self to God and you follow God. Your flesh will also follow. Don't fight the flesh or you will come back under the law.

IT'S NOT THAT WE REJECT LAW – THAT IS LAWLESSNESS, BUT THAT WE FUNCTION NOW UNDER A DIFFERENT BANNER – A GREATER POWER – A HIGHER AUTHORITY.

The Law incites sin ... it awakens sin / we become sin conscious.

BUT GRACE REVEALS RIIHTEOUSNESS ... WE BECOME RIGHTEOUSNESS CONSCIOUS.

Hebrews 1:9 (Psalm 45:7)

YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS

NB: Loving Righteousness comes before hating lawlessness.

Here our focus is on righteousness and ...

WHEN YOU TURN YOUR FACE TOWARD RIGHTEOUSNESS ... YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON WICKEDNESS.

2 Peter 3:17-18

*Therefore, **beloved**, since you already know these things, be on your guard so that you will not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure standing.*

*¹⁸But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

NB: IN VERSE 17 PETER SAYS AVOID LAWLESSNESS BUT DOESN'T SAY TO EMBRACE THE LAW. IN VERSE 18 PETER TELLS US HOW TO AVOID LAWLESSNESS ... HE SAYS ...

'GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS'. THIS IS THE GRACE YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN AND ESTABLISHED UNDER.

YOU ARE NOT UNDER LAW ... YOU ARE UNDER GRACE ... THEREFORE GROW IN THAT.

(Romans 6:14)