

“Married to the Law or Married to Christ” Romans 7

I. Duration of the law’s dominion –

7 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? Romans 7:1 (NKJV)

1. *A truth that seems to apply to all law. Have you ever seen a dead man arrested? Dug out of his grave and put in handcuffs?*
2. *Surely Hell is an eternal punishment, but Hell is not what Paul is talking about here ...*

II. Marriage laws and law –

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. Romans 7:2-3 (NKJV)

1. *Marriage is a binding Covenant – “till death do us part.” You pledge faithfulness -*
¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14 (NKJV)

2. *Adultery is the only clear grounds for divorce –*
³² But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. Matthew 5:32 (NKJV)

3. *Yet, death frees us from marriage vows -*
... but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, Romans 7:3 B (NKJV)

III. Dead to the Law, married to Jesus Christ -

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. Romans 7:4–6 (NKJV)

1. *The Bible is a Book of Covenants, marriage is a Covenant between a man and a woman, we are in a Covenant with God.*
2. *A Covenant (with God) Defined –*
“A bond in blood sovereignly administered.” O. Palmer Robertson
3. *God’s covenant arrangement with Adam –*

A. *First there was only one law -*

¹⁶ **And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV)**

B. *However, when that one law was broken the covenant was broken, sin must be punished*

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C. *Not only in Adam but in all of us –*

Westminster Shorter Catechism Questions 12 & 16

What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?

When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death. (Gal. 3:12, Gen. 2:17)

Did all mankind fall in Adam’s first transgression?

The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression. (Gen. 2:16–17, Rom. 5:12, 1 Cor. 15:21–22)

¹² **Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— Romans 5:12 (NKJV)**

D. *Because of Adam’s sin, transgression of the law there was death -*

⁵ **So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. Genesis 5:5 (NKJV)**

⁸ **So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. Genesis 5:8 (NKJV)**

¹¹ **So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. Genesis 5:11 (NKJV)**

4. *Yet, Jesus Christ’s death on the cross meant something new and different for us –*

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. Romans 7:4**

¹⁹ **For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19 (NKJV)**

A. *Adam was disobedient despite a paradise full of delicious fruit*

B. *Christ, was obedient to the point of death –*

⁸ **And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)**

IV. *Being married to Jesus Christ is a radically different thing than being wedded to the Law –*

1. *The law is a righteous, but unforgiving husband –*

A. *It's pronouncements against sin are CORRECT -*

⁷ What shall we say then? *Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."* Romans 7:7 (NKJV)

B. *Correct but not inspiring, when the law speaks to sin, or an unconverted sinner, all it does is stir it up -*

⁸ But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. ⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ¹⁰ And the commandment, which was to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death. ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.

¹² Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Romans 7:7–12 (NKJV)

C. *The law shows us the sinfulness of sin -*

¹³ Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. ¹⁷ But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will to *do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not to *do*, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to *do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

- *If we are converted, we realize the law is CORRECT, we are wrong ↑*
- *Yet, just knowing we are wrong does not enable right -*

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

2. *Jesus provides what the Law could not –*

A. *Deliverance -*

²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Romans 7: 25 (NKJV)

B. *No condemnation –*

⁸ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:1 A (NKJV)

C. *Power to walk in the Spirit -*

who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1 B (NKJV)

V. *It is our connection to Jesus Christ that gains us salvation and life –*

⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. John 15:5–10 (NKJV)

1. *The law under Christ is the same, or more binding, as it speaks to internals and not only externals –*

A. *Christians need to excel -*

¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

B. *For us anger is MURDER -*

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not murder*, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘*Raca!*’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘*You fool!*’ shall be in danger of hell fire. ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

C. *For us lust is Adultery -*

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery.*’ ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Matthew 5:18–30 (NKJV)

2. *Yet for us purity of heart is attainable because:*

A. *We are washed by Christ’s blood –*

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

B. *We are empowered by His Spirit –*

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 (NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:22–25 (NKJV)