

Romans 7:1 -6
Dead to the Law

Dead to the law ...

- I. Released from the Law
 - A. By Death

 - B. A Similitude
- II. Espoused to Another
 - A. For Life

 - B. The Risen Christ

 - C. A New Passion
- III. Bearing Fruit
 - A. Love, Freedom, Service

 - B. And a Productive Life

...alive in Christ.

Children, Listen ...

1. Where do we find the Law of God? Is God's Law good?
2. What does the Law of God show us about ourselves?
3. There is only one who has ever kept the Law perfectly. Who was that?
4. Did God give His people commands to make life harder or more of a blessing?
5. Who said: "if you love me, you will keep my commandments?"

Provocative, Hard and Liberating

Paul's propositions regarding the law and the believer can stir controversy even among those who embrace the biblical truth of salvation by grace alone. The apparent tension between the good law of God and the deathblow it lays on sinners can be confusing at times. And then; just what role does the Law play in the life of believers who have been set free from its condemning charges? The issues, questions and answer are more complicated than this I know, but I find it helpful to break it down in three ways.

1. The moral Law reflects God's holy standard and in doing so sheds light on all that falls short of it – defining sin. Sin warrants judgment and the judgment is death.
2. Jesus obeyed the law perfectly and even paid the penalty of death required for lawbreakers. He shares the merits of his obedience and sacrifice with those who believe in Him. Because He bore it fully, the damning effect of the law no longer applies to genuine Christians.
3. God's commands are still the standard of holiness and so, even under grace, the believer is to abide by the now non-life-threatening rules for faith and life.
4. Since the Law is God's will revealed to us, and since the law is good, and since Jesus tells us that those who love Him keep His commandments, believers do not abide under the Law as a burden, but a guide for a free life in grace in which he can actually delight.

Reiterated ... The Law

1. Condemnation hanging over the sinner's head.
2. Requirements for justifying sinners satisfied in the work of Christ.
3. Instrument of Sanctification exposing sin and illuminating the way of righteousness for the Christian.
4. The outline for true freedom for joyful citizens of the Kingdom of God.