

OUTLINE

Paul argues, in Romans 7:1-6, that just as a spouse's death severs the legal bond and relationship between a husband & wife, so too, the believer's death in Christ severs his former "bonded" relationship with sin. The believer is, then, free to be lawfully wedded to Christ.

This illustration further reinforces Paul's previous teaching that a believer's relationship with indwelling sin is radically changed because of his or her union with Christ in the likeness of His death & resurrection.

1A The law rules over all living beings, v1

1B The law originates from God our Creator

2B The law governs our behavior & conduct

2A The law of marriage rules over all living spouses, vv2-3

1B A lawful obligation and a lawful release

2B A lawful condemnation versus a lawful commendation

3A The law of sin & death over God's elect is severed by Christ's death, v4

1B Our having died w/Christ has severed that "marriage bond" to sin

2B Because that "bond" was lawfully broken, we are free to "marry" Christ

4A "Marriage" to Christ is of a different sort than the former "marriage" to sin, v4c-6

1B There's a night & day difference between these two "marriages"

2B There's a night & day difference in the fruit produced in the two

3B There's a night & day difference in the service rendered in the two