

GOD WANTS A RELATIONSHIP

Not a Performance

Romans 5, 6, 7 & 8

**“Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son...
an heir through God” (Galatians 4:7)**

Study Number Five – An Illustration of the Relationship – Romans 7:1-6

Dr. Anderson shared the following illustration that pertains to our message:

I was in conversation with a guy this afternoon who had been a believer for quite some time. He came to my noon-time class and afterwards he says, “You know I really need help.” And I said, “Well what’s the problem?” And he began to share how a great distance in his relationship to the Lord has developed. And how he feels now he is condoning things in his life that he knows is not pleasing to the Lord. He’s frustrated. He’s defeated. He’s tried many times to do right. He’s tried lots of times to see if this all would work. And it seems like he’s driven further and further away in his frustration.

What do you tell a guy like that? How do you share with him? I know the very first question I asked him is are you in the Word? He said no. And he said, “Well there’s your number one

problem. You haven't taken time to spend time with the Lord and fellowship with Him in reading and studying the scriptures. And you can plan on the fact that when you don't communicate and you don't spend time on your relationship through communicating and prayer and in the study of the scriptures on a daily consistent basis, there is going to be a distance in the relationship. Communication is going to break down. You are going to go your own way. You've been prone to do that all of your life. We all are like that."

Unless we understand what the Lord is trying to do and how He's trying to work and we constantly submit our lives to His lordship, we're going to be brought into a situation like this where great distance begins to develop. And we make excuses in our lives for things and we become frustrated and our relationship becomes sort of a dead, dry and dull experience. (source unknown)

The apostle recognizes that can happen in the relationship and there are a lot of misconceptions.

In chapter 5 he's getting us into the relationship. He tells us the results of it. And then he tells us the how—we're born in Adam. And then we're born again by the Spirit of God into the Lord Jesus Christ and brought into His family.

In chapter 6 we looked at two things:

1. We looked at the word UNITED which the apostle is describing what happens when we come to Christ. We're

brought into a living union with Him so that His life begins to flow through us. So we begin to magnify the person of Christ and there is fruit that is flowing from our lives.

2. Then we talked about the frustrating problem of SIN after we become a Christian. What should be our attitude toward sin? How can we gain victory in our life over sin? The things which keep tripping us up?

And the apostle gave us three things:

1. He said our ATTITUDE ought to be to consider that we're dead to sin. Recognize that fact.

2. Intellectually with our MIND. When we wake up in the morning we answer that fact. As far as God is concerned, we're dead to sin—verse 11.

3. By our WILL we will not let sin reign in our body. As our will is energized and empowered by the Spirit of God, there is a battle going on—verse 12.

“I can treat my body roughly and make it serve me, lest when I preach to others I myself might be disqualified.” (ref. 1 Corinthians 9:27)

We do not have to sin. Don't let sin reign in our mortal body.

We talked about the seriousness of that because when we do that as Christians we're standing in the way of God's purpose

to make us holy and righteous and like His Son. And that has serious ramifications.

Then we looked emotionally at verse 13. He says on a daily basis be presenting our body as a tool of righteousness, not a tool of wickedness.

This is where every morning when we start the day we should pray, “Lord, this is a new day. I’m presenting my body to You. I want You to begin to live in my body. I want You to control it by Your Spirit. If I control it, it’s going to go the wrong way and it’s going to do the wrong things. My body belongs to You.”

Now that brings us to chapter 7 in our series. And as we come to chapter 7, we have called these first six verses: “The Illustration of the Relationship.”

God wants a relationship not a performance. And isn’t it interesting that He uses marriage as a means of showing us what it’s like to come into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ?

Sin shall not exercise lordship over us for we are no longer under Law but under grace. We’re in a new relationship. And for our Christian experience we need to realize how this relationship works.

In Adam we were in sin. God through Moses brought the Law to show us our need for righteousness. And in Jesus Christ we find the solution.

But now so many Christians make this fatal mistake. They take the Law out of their old life and they bring it over into their new life. And the apostle is going to deal with that whole subject here in Romans chapter 7.

Paul was very vulnerable at this point. He lived all of his life before he became a Christian trying to be made righteous by the Law.

He says, “I’m a Pharisee of the Pharisees. I was born to Hebrew parents, of the tribe of Benjamin. As far as the Law was concerned, blameless. I really was struggling with performance before I became a Christian.” (ref. Philippians 3:5)

And the natural thing, from a natural point of view, is we can legislate righteousness. And the Law does that. That’s what the natural mind thinks. The Law will never legislate righteousness. We’ll never make a law that’ll make a person righteous. We’re taking a tool that God has intended for another purpose and trying to foist it upon our Christian life and use that tool in a wrong way.

Now we cannot emphasize enough how serious a matter it is when as Christians we violate a principle of scripture in the way we conduct our lives.

Dr. Anderson said:

“For instance I’m getting a lot of flack now from many of my spirit-filled brethren because I don’t go along with the modern charismatic movement. And one of the reasons I don’t go along with the movement is they are not using spiritual gifts properly.”

The Bible says a spiritual gift was given for the edification of the body. You are given a gift to minister to others, not for your own personal edification. And invariably these dear sweet folks—and I love them, they’re brothers and sisters in Christ—will say “But it makes me witness better. It makes me pray better. It makes me, me, me.”

And I say every time you say “me” you’re violating a principle of scripture which says that your gift was given for your MINISTRY not your MATURITY. It was given for your witness, not for the personal work of a Spirit of God inside your life.

(source unknown)

The same thing is true here. When we take a principle of scripture, like the Law was given for an express purpose, and we take that and we violate that and we try to put that into our Christian life, then we’re going to have a lousy Christian life. It is not going to be an abundant experience. It’s going to be a frustrating experience. It’s going to be a guilt-ridden experience. We’re not going to be happy with ourselves by our lack of performance. We’re not going to be pleased because we’re going to feel that God is mad at us because we are doing so poorly.

So what the apostle starts right with in chapter 7 is to illustrate the relationship and by the relationship and the illustration to show us what happened to the Law when we became a Christian.

Lane Adams wrote a book called *How Come It's Taking Me So Long to Get Better*.

Lane Adams struggled with a lot of the concepts that we're talking about in this series. And his book is called *How Come It's Taking Me So Long to Get Better*. In other words, how come it's taking me so long to make progress and to begin to become spiritual? Because every time we turn around we're failing.

He gives one of the greatest illustrations of the Christian life because he was in World War II. He said he was in the Marines. And one of the things that the armed forces always listen for was "the Marines have landed."

Now what did it mean when they said "the Marines have landed"? Did that mean the war was over and the victory was secure? No it did not. It meant that the Marines had landed and now the war started.

The Marines have landed in enemy territory and there is a long war ahead and it could be bloody. And most likely will be to possess the island. And if we could just get the picture that when we became a Christian, the Marines landed. The Spirit

of God came into enemy territory. He landed in our life and the life of Jesus Christ begins to flow through us.

But Christian growth is a war. It's the conflict of an old and a new. It's gain a little here and gain a little there. And throughout the remaining years of our life, from the time the Marines have landed until we die, it's going to be a warfare of us being made more Christlike.

And hastening that Christlikeness comes by an obedient and submissive spirit on our part in realizing that we are developing an ever-deepening relationship.

Now when two people who marry each other discover that and realize that marriage is the same thing, the Marines have landed and we're dealing with enemy territory. We deal with things in our lives with a submissive and obedient spirit and we begin to experience the depth of oneness in a marriage relationship.

So what the apostle is telling us here is that after we become a Christian a man being made righteous is not made righteous by the keeping of the Law. That's taking the Law out of its proper function and putting it in the wrong place.

Alright, now let's pick up at verse 1 with those few things and just look at these six verses that we have under consideration.

v. 1 For do you not know, brethren, for I am speaking to those who are knowing the law, that the law is ruling over the individual as long as he lives?

“For do you not know, brethren, for I am speaking to those who are knowing the law, that the law is ruling over the individual as long as he lives?”

Now there’s the PRINCIPLE.

The apostle will a lot of times state a principle and then he’ll illustrate it. Verses 2-6 are the illustration of the principle. What is the principle?

“I am speaking to those who are knowing the law,”

Now here it is:

“that the law is ruling over the individual as long as he lives?”

The CENTRAL THOUGHT of these verses is that when a death takes place, we are freed from the Law by which we were bound.

When we came to Jesus Christ—Romans 6—we died in Jesus Christ. We were identified with His death, burial and resurrection. And that was absolutely necessary so a new relationship could be established in Jesus Christ.

We were bound by the law of sin and death. We were bound to

a dictatorship of an old nature that could only respond to sin. We're freed from that in our identification with the death of Jesus Christ—Romans chapter 6.

Here's an opening statement about the Law so that we'll understand it properly.

The Law, one, has nothing to do with our JUSTIFICATION and the Law, two, has nothing to do with our SANCTIFICATION.

Now those are two great big words. The Law had nothing to do with our SALVATION and the Law has nothing to do with making us SAINTLY, if we wanted it another way.

The Law had nothing to do with giving us LIFE and the Law has nothing to do with making us CHRISTLIKE.

If one of those three terms communicates, we'll understand the Law has nothing to do with that.

Alright, it's human nature to bring it over, because the church has been held in bondage for 2,000 years to a legalistic performance. And the church is saturated with people who are performance-oriented. Performance, performance, performance. Lack of performance means that we're not a Christian.

There are a lot of guys who feel that their salvation is going to be withdrawn for lack of performance. They live that kind of

life. And they live in fear and wonder whether or not they've really done enough to be a Christian and to deserve salvation. And they live on that kind of philosophy. And Paul says that's not the way it is. That's not the picture at all.

As a result of our death with Jesus Christ when we came into this relationship, we died to the reign of the Law in our lives and the dictatorship of our old nature.

Here are two more verses to give us a little study of prepositions here. We'll emphasize the prepositions in these two verses.

Galatians 2:19 and 20—here's what the apostle says about the Law:

Galatians 2:19

For through the law I died to the law that I might live to God.
...

Alright, back up.

“For THROUGH the law”—as a result of the Law condemning us. When we saw it we couldn't keep it.

“THROUGH the law I died TO the law”—when we came to Jesus Christ—“that I might live TO God.”

And then he just goes on with that very familiar verse that we

all know.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. Yet not I but Christ is living in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and delivered Himself up for me.

When the Law pinned Jesus Christ on the cross, it did all that it could do. The Law will never go beyond the grave. That's why it's absolutely necessary for us to be identified in the death of Jesus Christ because the Law and the relationship the Law sustains with us is **ABOLISHED** when we're identified by faith in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There's the principle. Now look how he illustrates it. A lot of people get hung up on the teaching of marriage here in verses 2-6. Forget it! This has to do with a relationship with Christ and this is an illustration right now. And let's not get off of the main subject.

v. 2 For the married woman has been bound by law to her living husband; but if her husband dies, she has been released from the law of her husband.

“For the married woman has been bound by law to her living husband; but if her husband dies, she has been released from the law of her husband.”

Alright, notice the words “bound” and “released” in that verse to help get the truth.

“For the married woman has been bound”—she is—“bound by the law”—of the marriage relationship—“to her living husband.”

But now something happens. There is a DEATH of this “living husband.” And by the death of this husband, “she has been released from the law of her husband.”

In other words, the death of the husband abolishes the wife. It wipes it out. There’s no more wifhood. It puts it out of effect. It’s no longer operative. She is no more under the Law. She’s been discharged from it. She’s no more bound by it. She’s set free from the “law of her husband” by the death of the husband. She’s no longer under that authority so she can be joined to another and enjoy a new life.

Now listen to these two verses.

Galatians 4:4, 5

When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the Law,

To buy them out from under the Law.

And this one:

Galatians 3:13

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us.

That's what John 8:32 means.

John 8:32

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

Now this might disturb us a little bit.

If we do not receive Jesus Christ by faith, God is going to judge us on the basis of the Law to which we're bound.

When we stand at the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation chapter 20:15, every man is judged according to his works. God has no alternative when we spurn the provision of His Son but to judge us on the basis of the Law.

And so continuing to live, we were born bound to that Law. And if we refuse Christ as the provision, God's judgment of us in eternity is going to be on the basis of still being bound to that Law. And that's the only basis for judgment that He has.

The same thing is true in our life. We are bound to one nature, remember? We're under the dictatorship of that old nature that is God-rebellious and that produces sin. And we'll remain

bound to that until we come to Christ.

v. 3 So then, if while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.

“So then, if while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.”

What is he saying in that third verse? He is saying that one relationship must be terminated, that the other might become a reality.

See what happens when we bring the old relationship into the new relationship? We’re desecrating the new relationship. And to take the Law from here and bring it over in here is to live for two women! That’s the picture he’s describing. We can’t give our total loyalty and devotion to Christ and to the Law too at the same time! We have to die to one so we can live for the other in a new relationship and live only for Him!

And to desecrate the new by bringing the old over into it is to do the same thing as being adulterous in the marriage relationship.

The essence of verse 3 is this:

If we are to be married to the Lord Jesus Christ—which is really what happens in our new relationship with Him—then our marriage to the Law must be terminated by death.

If we are to be married to Jesus Christ in this new relationship, then our marriage to the Law must be terminated by death.

It's essential to the new that the old be broken.

Now listen to these two verses. Jesus is speaking. Some Greeks have just come into His audience, brought by Philip and Andrew, and He says this:

John 12:24

Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone. But if it die it brings forth much fruit.

Just like the corn of wheat has to fall into the ground and it dies, and through the process of the natural laws of nature, there comes forth much fruit. He is describing this new relationship.

We must come to a death in Jesus Christ to performance once and for all. And to the Law, and come into grace. We're in a new relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We're loved unconditionally. We're totally accepted. And by the power of the indwelling Spirit, He begins to produce fruit out of that

union. And it is not a performance. It is the true result of a deepening relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus is still in the business of changing lives today. And the authenticity of New Testament Christianity is absent because we're living bound to a law of performance rather than the deepening of a relationship.

The apostle says do away with that sort of thinking. Abolish the relationship to the one, that the other might become a reality.

v. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were put to death to the Law through the body of Christ, resulting in your being joined to another, to the One who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

“Therefore, my brethren, you also were put to death to the Law through the body of Christ,”

This is the basis for this new relationship. We have a CROSS and an EMPTY TOMB.

“resulting in your being joined to another,”—even Christ—“to the One who was raised from the dead,”

Now why do we have the new relationship? The purpose of it is in that last phrase in verse 4:

“in order that we might bear fruit to God.”

Isn't it interesting that the only thing that terminates a relationship is death? The only thing that could terminate the relationship to the Law was death. The only thing that can terminate that marriage was death.

That's one of the greatest arguments for the eternal security of the believer in the relationship. We'll get more of that in chapter 8. Because we have a living Christ who's already passed through the veil of tears and death no longer has lordship over him.

The Lord Jesus is never going to die so the relationship is never going to be terminated. We are eternally secure in this relationship in Jesus Christ because He's already passed beyond the pale of physical death. He's going to be alive forever.

It was Dr. Newell who called attention to the paradoxes in this verse. He says:

"We died, yet we bear fruit. We've been discharged, and yet we serve. Formerly the service was rendered from the motive, 'I ought to do it,' now 'I delight to do it.' The believer is set free, but now in love he gives himself to the Savior as he never could under the law.

I do not work my soul to save
that work my Lord hath done
But I will work like any slave

For love of God's dear Son.
(source unknown)

The terrors of law and of God
With me can have nothing to do;
My Saviour's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view.
(source unknown)

There's no fruit under the Law. Nothing results from that.
Fruit comes from a vital union with Jesus Christ.

In John 15, Jesus predicted it when He said:

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. He that abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit.

It's out of this living union with Christ that this fruit is going to be born. Remember we had that back in:

Romans 6:5

If we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.

“in order that we might bear fruit to God.”

What is that fruit?

Romans 6:22

But now having been set free from sin and having been made bondslaves of God, you are having your fruit resulting in holiness.

The fruit is the holiness of life, the quality of character, that Jesus Christ is producing in each one of us.

What is that fruit?

Galatians 5:22, 23

The fruit of the Spirit's work in my life is love, joy, peace, long suffering...

It's 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 where we have 15 characteristics of love. This is some of the fruit that is the result of His working in our lives.

It was Watchmen Nee who said:

“You know it's our responsibility to be and it's God's responsibility to do.”
(source unknown)

As we make ourselves available to Him, He does through us and produces this authentic Christian character—the

qualities that we all respond to, the qualities that we always recognize, the difference between a person who knows Christ and a person who doesn't.

If there is no fruit in our life, it ought to be of deep concern to us. If we're a Christian and there is no fruit in our life, it ought to be of deep, deep concern. Because the results of a relationship with Jesus Christ is going to be fruit that He produces in a changed life and character.

Some people say, "Well I haven't changed very much." As though God's failed.

That could indicate a lot of things. First it could indicate no relationship. Secondly it could involve a grieved and quenched spirit who should be producing that Christlikeness but who cannot until one is aware of the fact that the Spirit wants to produce that kind of fruit and righteousness.

If we are believers and we've been a believer for quite some time and we're not any different than we were, we should really get shook inside about it. We should really get concerned.

Because one of the last words that Jesus said when He walked down that trail toward the Garden of Gethsemane with those guys was, "You have not chosen Me, but I've chosen you, and I've ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain." (ref. John 15:16)

It is the desire of the Father to produce fruit in our life as a result of the relationship. And as a result of the relationship, we ought to be becoming more and more Christlike. Not as a performance of legalistic standards, but as a direct result of a deepening relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the apostle has made it quite clear to us here that the Law's terminated and he's going to say just a couple of more things in these next two verses that'll tie it all together.

v. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions were at work in our members through the Law to bear fruit for death.

“For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions were at work in our members through the Law to bear fruit for death.”

Now what does that mean? That means that before we became a Christian, we “were in the flesh”—that was when we were in Adam.

“the sinful passions that were at work in our members”—that old nature was at work, desiring things that were not pleasing to the Lord.

“sinful passions...through the Law”

Remember what it said back in Romans 5? It said that when the Law is introduced it multiplies sin.

The purpose of the Law, remember, was given to show us our sin and our need of righteousness. Here it is again.

When the Law functions properly, it stirs up our old nature. And the result of it is sin.

For instance, the minute we introduce Law to our human nature and say “Thou shalt not,” our nature says “I will too.”

It was Hal Lindsey who said in his book:

“When you introduce Law to the human nature the way it is, it’s like throwing a truckload of red meat to a bunch of hungry lions.”

(source unknown)

That’s probably just about as graphic an illustration as we can get. They’ll devour it.

When we introduce Law to our nature and it’s an invaluable principle, we’re going to get sin that results from it. And the evil one delights for us to take it out of our life, put it over into our new life because we’re going to be living in a syndrome of guilt constantly and of failure because the Law’s doing what it’s supposed to do in erupting our old nature over here in the Christian life and causing us to constantly fail.

And when we put those things in there, they’re going to do that. They’re going to live up to their nature in that particular environment.

Now Jesus came here because of all of that. He lived the Law perfectly and died to free us from all of that in this new relationship. And that's what verse 6 says.

v. 6 But now we having been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were being bound, so that we are serving in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

“But now we’ve been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were being bound, so that we are serving in the newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.”

We have “been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound”—when we came to know Jesus Christ. That we might bear fruit to God.

Let’s look at two verses from 2 Corinthians to go right along with this.

2 Corinthians 3:6

Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the

glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory just as from the Lord the Spirit.

We're being changed in a process of a deepening relationship and not by the performance of the Law.

We just want to make it easy. We want to say, "Well, you know, if I could just make a decision and raise my hand and all of a sudden become Christlike. Let's get onto other things then." People want to do that.

Christlikeness comes as a result of time.

1 John 3:2

Soon we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.

Philippians 1:6

We are confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in us will continue to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Righteousness in our daily life is a process of time leading eventually to Christlikeness. And as we cooperate with the indwelling Spirit producing that, the time is shortened. But that's the only way. As He finds me submissive and obedient and sensitive to the things which deepen the relationship and the things which hurt it, the work goes on toward Christlikeness.

Now in the illustration, there's several things that have come to the surface.

1. There's a picture of marriage. That tells us that in our daily life we have a picture of what this is when we come to know Christ. We're brought into this living union with Him.
2. Secondly, when we came into this living union, we died to the Law—to the performance, to the orientation of living by legalistic standards.
3. Third, we have been joined to another, even Jesus Christ. And the purpose of that being joined to another is that we might bear fruit to God. And that fruit comes out of the relationship.

Jude 24 and 25—listen to these. They'll give great comfort.

Jude 24, 25

Now unto Him who is able to guard you against stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever more.

He has the strength and the grace, the power, the adequacy to make us Christlike. And it is not our performance of these things that will do that. It is our relationship.

Could we be still and know that He's God? Let God begin to do this quiet work of making us like Him. Talk with Him. Pray the psalmist prayer:

Search me, O God, and know my heart

Psalm 139:23, 24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my thoughts.
And see if there be any wicked way in me...

“Lord, where am I offending You in the relationship?” Just begin to let Him work. And as He begins to put His finger on these given areas of our life, confess it, admit it. Say, “Lord, I’m really sorry. I didn’t even know that was offending You. I’ve done that for years and years and I really realize it hurts. And right now Lord I deal with that in my life.”

We’ll be amazed at the joy and the sense of freedom and liberty that will begin to come into our lives. And the fragrance of Christlikeness that will be there as we just meticulously deal with these things that we’ve been oblivious to that has been hurting it.

Do that in marriage. The wife says, “Now honey, there’s some things that for 20 years you’ve been doing that have just really hurt me.” And it’s at a time of confrontation and we say, “What is it?” And she says “It’s this and it’s this and it’s this.”

We've all been there. That when we deal with one and we deal with two and we deal with three, we have brought about a deepening of the relationship.

Every one sitting here as believers wants to be close to the Lord. We want to become more Christlike. Don't go out of here and try. Go out of here and become sensitive to what we're doing in the relationship that's keeping us from that and deal with those things in life.

Hebrews 12:2

Lay aside those things which doth so easily beset you and run with patience the race that's set before you.

These are the lessons from our text:

Lesson #1: The apostle, in these six verses, has given us a picture of the relationship which is ours in Christ, and he has used marriage.

Lesson #2: Through this illustration, he has shown in our identification with Christ and His death we have been put to death to the Law.

Lesson #3: The result of this is we have been joined to another, even Christ in order that we might bear fruit to God.

Father, You know the hearts of these folks. If there are things in our lives, Father, that are offending our relationship with

You and keeping us from becoming Christlike, we pray Father that You'll put Your finger on those things in our lives. And we'll be mature enough to realize that when those things fall out of our lives, it's because of our love for You. And there comes a deepening of the relationship as a result. Lord, we've talked about heavy truth and we've used some theological terms that probably have been a little heavy. We pray that Your Holy Spirit can give us time now to reflect and to realize the relationship. Realize the Law and its function to bring us to Christ not to produce holiness after we become Christians. Thank You for Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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v. 2 For the married woman has been bound by law to her living husband; but if her husband dies, she has been released from the law of her husband.

v. 3 So then, if while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.

v. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were put to death to the Law through the body of Christ, resulting in your being joined to another, to the One who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

v. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions were at work in our members through the Law to bear fruit for death.

v. 6 But now we having been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were being bound, so that we are serving in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Romans 7:1-6 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How long does the law rule over an individual in verse 1?

3. When is the married woman released from the law of her husband, according to verse 2?

4. How does Paul apply the marriage illustration to us in verse 4?

5. Describe our condition in the past, according to verse 5.

6. What is our relationship now to the Law, according to verse 6?

7. What is our new relationship, according to the last part of verse 6?

8. Define what is meant by, “We are serving in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The apostle, in these six verses, has given us a picture of the relationship which is ours in Christ, and he has used marriage.

LESSON #2: Through this illustration, he has shown in our identification with Christ and His death we have been put to death to the Law.

LESSON #3: The result of this is we have been joined to another, even Christ in order that we might bear fruit to God.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
