

The Believer's Relationship to the Law...

Romans 7:1~6, part 1

This section of scripture is “*extremely important*” for the believer in Christ to fully understand! Whether or not you truly understand Paul’s teaching concerning “*Believer’s Relationship to the Law*” will determine whether or not you enjoy “THE LIFE” that Jesus promised... A life, I am afraid many do not enjoy, due to not understanding their relationship to the Law!

Here we find Paul speaking to his “*Jewish*” brethren...those who “*know*” the Law. The “*Law*” Paul is referring to here is that of the *Mosaic Covenant*, outlined in the *Torah*. (The first 5 books of our bible, the books of Moses) It is a reference to the covenant God made with Israel on Mt. Sinai...

Turn with me to Exodus 20... Exodus 20 is a very familiar passage to most bible students, because it records the giving of the 10 commandments...But we need to make sure, that we don’t overlook chapters 21~23, where Moses gave Israel all the other laws included in the *Mosaic Covenant*... The word “*covenant*” means “*testament*...” It is a binding agreement between two parties... In biblical times, all “*Covenants*” were sealed, made in effect, through blood sacrifices.

Chapter 24:1~8 we read that Moses wrote them all down in a book, and sealed the covenant before all the people with the blood of animals...

The Covenant given by God through Moses to the people Israel, actually contained a total of 613 Laws. That becomes very significant to know because in the Jewish mind, the 10 are only a small fraction of the Law given by God. The “*Law*” was a reference to a single unit of 613 Laws, which made up the *Mosaic Covenant*!

That makes what James said in (James 2:10) all the more important...

¹⁰*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.* ¹¹*For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.*

The Mosaic Covenant God made with Israel, was actually more like a “*Yoke of Bondage*”.

They carried a tremendous weight around... Like captives, the law held them in bondage...every facet of their lives was dominated by the law. From what they could and couldn’t eat and drink, their clothing, their activities, etc... The Law became “*dominated*” their lives...

Here in 7:1, Paul uses the word “*dominion*”... to describe the Law’s power over their lives...

It means to “*have rule over,*” to “*be in authority*”...to “*exercise Lordship over*”... “*God...MASTER*”

The best illustration I know in this, is that of a “*dog tied to a tree*...” The Law is a restraint, a chain, a leash...which sets how far the dog can go, it sets the parameters that he must stay within.

The tragic part of this is, given the “*nature*” of the dog! Dogs are active, and love to run and play, chase animals, etc... That chain goes against their nature! That’s why (given the chance) that dog will break free and run! If the chain breaks, if the cage is left open, he doesn’t hang around, but takes off...

Listen, like the chain on the dog, the Law of God is contrary to our “*nature*...” We, being born of the “*seed of Adam*” are born in sin, what the bible calls a “*carnal nature*!” We are born a naturally *rebellious, sinful* people against God! The *desires and lust of our flesh*, our *carnal nature* do not find fulfillment in the Law. It goes against everything we are! It becomes like a “*Chain*” about our neck!

But that's just it... That's why God gave the Law, that we'd come to realize that we possess a rebellious nature. To manifest that we don't love God, but rather our heart is given to this world! We realize that just because we stay within the parameters set by the law...that doesn't make us right with God. It actually causes sin to rise up within us!

We come to realize...that what we thought was the problem all this time...(the law)...is not the problem at all. The problem is me! The Law was given to condemn me, to render me guilty before God, that I would look to Christ and find Grace!

I'm convinced herein lies the explanation to why many today see serving God as a "burden..." They find no "Joy" in serving God... You know what I think the problem is...The God they are serving, is the Law! Paul has explained there are only two masters; one is either "Under the Law" or "Under Christ!"

¹⁰ *And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.*

Paul found what was supposed to bring "LIFE", killed him! It was drudgery, he found no life at all in it!

And that was God's intention for the Law.

"I had just enough Religion to aggravate me..."

Many today see "Serving God" out of obligation! They feel like they have no choice, they too feel chained, they feel in bondage...Many feel like a slave...

Back in 6:11~23...Paul uses the "analogy" of a **Master and his Slave**.

In Christ day, slaves were bought and sold in the market place every day. Paul uses this analogy teaching how Christ purchased us from our former Master, to be His servant...

^{3:24} *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

"Redeemed" means...to "purchase" to buy, to pay the ransom... to "loosen" break (up), destroy, dissolve,

Which speaks to how Christ "redeemed us" through his death on the cross... Through Christ death, he "paid the ransom", he "set us free" from our "Former Master" the LAW!

(6:14) ¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

Paul says...**Sin shall no longer be "your God" ... no longer be "your Master" and you its "slave..."**

Here in chapter 7, Paul continues to explain this truth, how through that "Christ Death on the Cross" we **have been set free** from the Law! He does so by using the analogy of marriage...

(Vs 2~3) ² *For the woman which has a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he lives; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³ So then if, while her husband lives, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.*

According to the Mosaic Law given through Moses, when a man and women were joined the "Holy Bonds of Matrimony," they entered "A Covenant" that bound the two together for life!...till death do us part."

Now we need to be careful here, and not allow our minds to be drawn away from what Paul is teaching here. We must not to let this turn into the matter of DIVORCE. Paul just uses marriage as his illustration.

The "subject" of this passage is the "**DOMINION of the LAW**" on man's life as long as he lives...right?

(Vs 1) ¹Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he lives?

Paul uses this illustration, to show how the Law has “Authority” over their lives! The Law lays down a set of parameters for man to live within, and then dares us to go outside those bounds! And as long as man lives, he is under the Laws power...

In the illustration Paul uses here, the wife is “bound” by the Law by its requirements, and declares that if she goes outside those parameters, it will declare her condemned!

But listen, Paul’s point is this, through death, we are set you FREE from the “**Bondage of the Law!**”

²For the woman which has a husband **is bound** by the law to her husband so long as he lives; but if the husband be dead, **she is loosed** from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband lives, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

The WIFE is “loosed” from the “bondage of the Law” through the “Death...” of her husband.

If her husband be DEAD...She is no longer OBLIGATED to the Law!

...The Law has no more DOMINION over her life!

...She is FREE to enter a “New Covenant” of Marriage!

The WIFE here represents US...the “Bride of Christ!”

The HUSBAND represents the LAW...our former husband...

But now, through Christ DEATH on the Cross, we are “FREE to REMARRY!”

⁴Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the **body of Christ**; that ye should **be married to another**, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

We can now enter a “Covenant Relationship with Christ”... As the prophet Jeremiah spoke of in 31.

³¹Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Matthew 26:26~28... The blood of the New Testament...

Christian...listen to me...

The Messiah is the “GOAL” of the Law...

Through the Death of Messiah...the Mosaic Law, the “Old Covenant” has been TERMINATED!

Through Christ BLOOD...a New Covenant, a NEW TESTAMENT has been established! A Covenant of Grace and Mercy! One that has set us FREE from the Law, and binds us to Christ for eternity!