

Romans 7:1~6, part 2

Jeremiah 31:31~34... *A New Covenant...*

2Corinthians 3... *The New and Old compared...*

2Corinthians 4... *We don't preach ourselves...(Works righteousness) but Christ...*

I need you to listen very closely...The *Messiah* is the “*GOAL*” of the Law...

To help us understand this, Paul uses the “*Analogy*” of a marriage...

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.*

Paul uses one of the Mosaic Laws, one concerning “*Re-Marriage*”, to help his Jewish brethren understand what God had brought about through the crucifixion of this Nazarene, on a tree outside the gates of Jerusalem! Paul was trying to explain, that God was establishing a “*New Covenant*” with Israel.

This passage we are reading tonight, reveals how God made the transition from the *Old Testament* to the *New Testament*!

Through the shed BLOOD of Christ...a “*New Covenant*”, a NEW TESTAMENT has been established! And the “*Old Covenant*”, the Old Testament has been TERMINATED! It is no longer active...it is what Paul refers to here...as DEAD!

According to the Mosaic Law, when a man and women were joined together in the “*Holy Bonds of Matrimony*,” the two 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) ¹*Know 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?*

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.

The only good thing the Law does for us...is to bring us to Messiah!

That is its purpose and end... When an individual comes to Messiah, he becomes “*dead to the law*” as Paul puts it here. The Law’s authority and power over our lives has been broken!

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.

We must be careful here not to let this illustration turn into a teaching on divorce and re-marriage. The Point of Paul’s using this illustration, was that she was “loosed” from the “**bondage** of the Law” through the “*Death...*” of her husband. The whole point of using this illustration was to show how “*Death*” freed the wife...

Someone asked *Ruth Graham Bell*, if she had ever entertained the thought of **divorcing Billy**... Her answer was NO...not one time... But I have thought about *killing him!* Ha, ha, ha...

The point Paul is making using the illustration of marriage is this...

If her husband be DEAD...She is no longer OBLIGATED to the Law! The Law has been satisfied, and has “*No Authority*” over her... the WIFE is Free of being bound to her former husband, and is now free to be married again. The Mosaic Law agrees that there is no problem with that whatsoever!

See that...the point Paul is making here has nothing to do with marriage or divorce...it is better to keep it in the “*context*” that Paul spoke it in...as an **analogy!** Explain difference between a parable and analogy.

To teach by analogy is when you teach a divine truth using an earthly example. (Ex: Jn 12...Seed planted brings forth life...)

Paul takes the “*principle*” the “*Truth*” of that analogy, and uses it to explain how God brought about the “*New Covenant*” with Messiah.

Listen...if the “*Old Covenant*” be dissolved, be done away with...then like this wife, we would be FREE to enter into a New Covenant, and not be considered wrong! Now listen, here is a very important truth to grasp... Given the “*Old covenant*” given through Moses, Israel could not enter into a “*new Covenant*” without being UNFAITHFUL! That would be to get married again, *while your husband lives*...

No doubt, the Jewish brethren had immense trouble understanding this... to “*Leave the Law*” and to “*Come to Christ*” **would be like** “*leaving your spouse, and getting married again while your spouse was still alive!*” To give your heart Christ was a call to remove your heart from the Mosaic Law!

These two covenants work together, they have a common bond, but they are not mutual! They each **cannot co-exist** at the same time...for they are two totally opposite covenants...

One Covenant “*Rejects*” transgressors of the Law...while the other “*Receives*” transgressors of the Law!

But here in this text, with masterful skill, using the analogy of the widowed wife, Paul blends the two covenants together, revealing to us the divine wisdom of God in the design of the two covenants.

All men are under *the authority of the Mosaic Law* until they come to faith in Christ! We are bound under the law until we come to the place where the law has declared us “*guilty*” and condemns us as transgressors! It is only then will we place our trust in Christ... When we identify with his death on the cross, he takes upon himself our transgressions! Fulfilling the requirement of the law on our behalf. Thus “FREEING US” from the Law! Thus being free from the law, we are free to re-marry!

A truth that Paul now, in verse 4 brings to the Christian faith!

⁴*Wherefore, 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. ⁵For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth **fruit** unto death.*

The word “**fruit**” is a reference to “**WORKS**”...our “**DEEDS**.”

Verses 4~5 is a “*contrast*”... Paul says that “*when we were in the **flesh***”...(speaking of the time when we were under the law, and sought to be obedient to the Law)... “*when we were in the **flesh***”...SIN was “at work” in our bodies!

⁵*For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth **fruit** unto death.*

This is the hard part for us to grasp... We know the Law is Holy...but the problem lies not in the Law, the problem lies with us (Vs 7).

Anyone who serves the law, is operating in the *power of the flesh*...

Our “DEEDS” that came as a result of our “*so-called obedience*” to the Law, were “DEAD WORKS!” Now I need you to listen very closely... Paul is not referring to “*Evil deeds*”...but rather “*Good deeds*...” Don’t miss this... Anyone “*under the Law*”...anyone who serves the Law...will produce “*Good deeds*...” Obedience to the Law produces a “*FORM of Righteousness*”. By adhering to the requirements of the Law, by staying within the “*bounds*” of the Law...there is the “*appearance*” of being JUST...

A wife may “*be obedient to the Law*” by remaining married all of her life to the same man... She may “*be obedient to the Law*” by never “*stealing*” a thing in her life...an honest person... She may “*be obedient to the Law*” by never “*killing*” anyone...

But according to Paul...those are “*Dead Works*...” The *Fruit unto death* that Paul speaks of in verse 5, that is produced in a person’s life by their obedience to the Law! By adhering to the requirements of the Law, by staying within the “*bounds*” of the Law...there is the “*appearance*” of being JUST... That is what Paul means by his comment in verse 11...¹¹*For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*

Paul says...“*Sin used my obedience to the Law to deceive me into thinking I was right with God!*”

Take for example, the illustration Paul used in verse 2~3... One may be given to think that just because they have been married to the same person all their life, that they are not guilty of *adultery*. But even though they may not be guilty of adultery in the letter of the law, they may be guilty of adultery.

(Ph.3...*Law blameless*) Paul was deceived into thinking that he’d never committed adultery...

²⁷Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸But I say unto you, That whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. ²⁹And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell. ³⁰And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

In the O.T. we see how Israel was often guilty of committing adultery against God, by giving their hearts to “*Things*”... Idolatry is best defined in that when anything takes the rightful place of God in one’s heart!

Anyone here not guilty of adultery?

Doesn’t that help you understand what Paul means in verse 6, when he says...

⁶*But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*

We have become “*spiritually alive!*” We now realize that sin is not limited to the ones we act out in our bodies... We come to realize the sins of the spirit, the sins of the heart! I come to realize that just because I’ve only been married to Teri, doesn’t make me right... Is my heart devoted to Teri?

(John 6) ⁶³*It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

(John 4) ¹⁹*The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.* ²⁰*Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.* ²¹*Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.* ²²*Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.* ²³*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him.* ²⁴*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* ²⁵*The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.* ²⁶*Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.*