

Book Study #11 ROMANS

Rom. 7:1-6 An Illustration From Marriage

Before We Begin...



“Do you not know, brothers--for I am speaking to men who know the law--that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man. So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, a the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.”

1. What is the most memorable wedding you ever attended (other than your own)?

Exploration... Discovery... Revelation...

2. As believers, what is our new status with regard to the Old Testament law? What caused this change in status?



3. Paul uses an illustration from the law of marriage to illustrate the change in our relationship to the law. In what ways are we like the wife in this illustration?

4. How have we “died?” (see Romans 6:L3-8)

5. How did our “death” bring about a change of “husbands?”

6. How did this change affect the way in which we serve God? (v. 6)

7. In your own words, how is serving God “in the new way of the Spirit” (under grace) different than serving God “in the old way of the written code” (under law)? (v.6 see Romans 8:14, 2 Corinthians 3:17)

8. How does Paul characterize our condition prior to salvation? What was the result? (v.5)

9. What effect does the law have on unbelievers? Can it make them righteous? (v.5; see Rom. 3:20, 5:20)

10. SUMMARY: In the last three lessons, Paul has used different pictures to explain what it means for a believer to be “under grace” rather than “under law.” What point is he making with each of these pictures?

6:1-14; death

6:15-23; slavery

7:1-6; marriage

As we end this part of the Journey...

What words or images does the word “freedom” bring to mind? Is this what you associate with Christianity? How is the world’s idea of freedom different than God’s? Does your “ex-husband” continue to cause problems? Why? _____