

We Are Delivered From The Law And That's A Fact

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. Romans 7:6

Topical Outline of the Chapter

- I. But now (but in fact), by dying to what once bound us**
 - II. We have been released from the law**
 - III. So that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code**
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- I. But now (in fact), by dying to what once bound us;**

Paul is talking about the law here. He introduces the heart of this passage with the transitional phrase “but now” (in fact), by dying to what once bound us. In the Old Testament the law was binding. Paul says:

“But now (in fact) we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive.”

Remember Paul has just pointed out in verse 1 that “the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives.” Therefore, when a person dies, he is discharged for all legal liabilities and penalties. Because we, as believers, died in Jesus Christ when He paid our sin debt on Calvary, we were thereby released from our moral and spiritual liabilities and penalties under God’s law. “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us- for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” (Galatians 3:13). Paul uses the term “law,” “commandment,” or “written code” in each of the first fourteen verses of Romans 7, and a total of thirty times in the entire chapter. But before we examine Paul’s use of the term “law” in Romans 7, we need to notice how Paul used the term in the previous six chapters. Paul explained that the law reveals sin (3:20), condemns the sinner (3:19), defines sin as

transgression (4:15;5:13), and brings God's wrath (4:15). In other words, the law reveals sin, not salvation; it brings condemnation, not justification; and it brings wrath not grace. According to Paul, the purpose of the law is to show our utter inability to obey it and merit favor with God. By God's amazing grace, God has credited Christ's obedience to the law to our account. Thus, we are justified by faith alone in Christ alone through grace alone. Hence, we are "not under law but under grace" (6:14). Only grace can solve the dilemma of the law's weightiness. Praise God we are released from the law, in order to serve God in the Spirit, and that's a fact.

II. We have been Released from "THE LAW" so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit

In Romans chapter 7 we are told in God's Word that the believer dies to the law. Remember, Paul has just pointed out in verse 1 that "the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives." In the first few verses of the chapter, it is illustrated by marriage. It is against the law for a woman to have two husbands, but if her husband dies, she is free to legally marry another. So, it is with the believer. The believer dies to the law and is united with Christ. We have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not the old way of the written code. In this chapter verses 2,3 the Apostle Paul uses marriage to illustrate his principle that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives. Paul calls attention to the fact that marriage laws are binding only as long as both partners are alive. The law is binding only on the living. Paul says, "For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage" (7:2). Some of you have had your spouse to die. At some point after the funeral, you have to notify all kinds of institutions (the government, banks, insurance companies, and so on) that you are no longer legally married. Your spouse died, and now you are released from the law of marriage. But, if your husband is still alive and you have an affair with another man, Paul says you are committing adultery. Accordingly, he says, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man, she is not an adulteress (7:3). A woman whose husband has died and who marries another man does not commit adultery. How is it then that in one instance the woman is an adulteress

but not in the other? The answer of course has to do with her husband's death. In one case, the woman is still married to her husband-he is still alive-and so she has legal obligations to him and to that marriage. But in the other case, the husband has died. There is no legal obligation. And so, she is free to remarry. Only death can secure freedom from the marriage law, and that's a fact.

In the analogy of the slave owner and his slave, the slave owner was sin, the slave now emancipated, was the believer. In the present analogy, the believer corresponds to the wife, set free through death-with-Christ from the tie which bound her to her former husband the law. Now that this tie has been broken, the believer is free to enter into union with Christ. While the law stipulates the very sins it forbids, those who are united to Christ produce the fruit of righteousness and life. The analogy has its difficulties but the situation which it is intended to illustrate belongs to real life. Paul has already declared as forcefully and unambiguously as possible that freedom from the law's bondage does not mean freedom to do what the law forbids (6:1,15; cf. 3:31). Freedom from the law does not bring freedom to sin but just the opposite-freedom for the first time to do what is righteous, a freedom the unregenerate person does not and cannot have. 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, and that's a fact.

III. So that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code

Paul himself had enjoyed the experience of liberation from the law so as henceforth "to serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit. (Rom 7:6) Paul expresses to us the greatest lesson we can learn concerning the law is to let go of the law and embrace the new life through Christ. Paul admitted that as a man he was carnal and sold under the law. The Law was spiritual, and he was unspiritual. The law shuts God out while grace allows God in.

Salvation brings a complete change of spiritual relationship, just as remarriage after death of a spouse brings a complete change of marital relationship. We are no longer married to the law but are now married to Jesus Christ, the diving Bridegroom of his church. One underlying emphasis of the book of Romans is that salvation produces total transformation. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God "made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). In Romans 7:5 Paul reminds the Romans-and us- four truths that characterized our old lives as Non-Christians. (1)We were living in the flesh. The unredeemed, unregenerate person can operate only in the area of the flesh, the natural and sinful sphere of fallen mankind. In Scripture, the term flesh (Greek sarx) is used in several ways. It is used in a morally and spiritually neutral sense to describe man's physical being. In that sense, when Christ became God incarnate, the Lord Jesus himself "became flesh (sarx) and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). In fact, one of the certain marks of a true believer is that he confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (sarx)" (1 John 4:2). But flesh (sarx) is also used in a moral and ethical sense, and always with an evil connotation.

(2)As Christians, we are dead to the law as far as its demands and condemnation are concerned, but because we now live in the new way of the Spirit, we love and serve God's law with a full and joyous heart. And we know that to obey his law is to do his will and that to do his will is to give him glory. May that be true of every one of us here today. Kenneth Wuest gives this accurate and beautiful rendering of verse 6: "But now, we were discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were constantly held down, insomuch that we are rendering habitually a bond slave's obedience." (3)We serve in the new way of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit given to us by the grace of God now leads our life for us. We have become a new person who is not led by our old sinful ways anymore but lead by a true passion and desire to serve Christ.

Tony Evans tells this story: "a woman in Georgia was pulled over by the Highway Patrol for speeding. The officer wrote her a ticket for doing 70 miles and hour in a 55 mile per hour zone. She opted to go to court instead of paying the 100.00 fine. She goes to court and says to the judge that she is guilty of speeding but cannot pay the fine because she did not have the funds and begs for mercy. The woman while begging for mercy with tears in her eyes asked the judge

not to send her to jail for the crime of speeding. The judge is moved with compassion, stand up takes off his robe, walks around the bench, reaches in his wallet, and pulls out a hundred dollar bill and places it in front of the woman. He goes back to the bench, put his robe back on and sits down. He looks at the woman, pronounces her guilty and she pays the fine and goes on about her business. This is what grace has done for the “called out ones,” who were dead but now are alive because of the payment Christ gave on Calvary. The law had this woman but G.R.A.C.E.- Gods Resources At Christ Expense gave her new life.

(4)The absolute holiness of the Lord of Host's character has two components that speak to the sinner and the ungodly who reject His gospel covenant. They are: Grace- His unmerited favor and the Law- His punishment for transgressors. Grace, if refused, is such a beautiful switching of garments (wages of sins for riches of heaven) then judgement brings severe punishments. The emblem of this message or pronouncement of God to man is written on the inner bark of trees, rolls of papyrus, and the dressed skins of animals with sticks attached to the ends of the scroll and circling the material. It was read rolled from one stick to the other so that only a small portion would be visible at any time for all to see. A message that took flight like some bird of prey searching for food for itself and its family is in fact similar to the active energy of the Word of God moving with the pronouncement that will be swiftly carried out. A billboard that is 30'X15' is large enough to be seen and read as though a newspaper from the Heavenly Chronicle, carrying the message from its Chief Editor, God Almighty, telling of this cleansing operation and that He is in the market for more prisoners of hope to come forward to be made clean, and receive a place at His table-the place of refuge. Lawlessness must be purged from the inhabitants of the city, and the nation.

The content of the message says that prayers ought to be offered and the law ought to be read, understood and put into practice if forgiveness of sin is to be received and the law of the house of God is digested. But if not sought the inhabitants of the city would be expecting heaven but living for hell. The resounding message is that evildoers will be judged. Judgement is coming like a thief in the night and Mercy will have to step aside and allow judgement to take her

place. Repentance and righteousness is the goal but the hand of justice waits in the wings for the offer to be accepted.

Thank God we are delivered from the Law, and that's a fact. This refers not to freedom to do what God's law forbids (6:1,15; 8:4, 3:31), but freedom from spiritual liabilities and penalties of God's law (v.4 Galatians 3:13). Because we died in Christ when He died (6:2), the law with its condemnation and penalties no longer has jurisdiction over us (vv. 1-3). Think about it we now can serve God in the new way. And that's a fact. Praise God for regeneration! Praise God for the new birth by His Spirit through what Christ did for us on the cross of Calvary! (Romans 7:6 NIV) "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 written code." The written code could not save us from sinful passions. It aroused sinful passions within us. Through Christ, we have died to sin and have been released from the law to serve God in the new way of the Spirit! The Spirit of God resides within the regenerate. They have been regenerated. They have been born again. The Spirit of God has baptized them into Christ. They serve God in Christ by the Spirit. They are not saved from sin by rules and regulations. They are saved from sin by a living Christ that gives them resurrection power to fulfill the law and overcome sin. The regenerate walks in the power of the Holy Spirit and not in the flesh gratifying the desires of the flesh. The fruit of that life is Christ like. The regenerate in Christ continues the ministry of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. And that's a fact.