

Romans 7 - Believer's Position in Christ

vv. 1-6 - Paul uses an analogy of marriage in order to contrast the Law versus Grace and the two natures of a believer.

- These verses show **what actually happens** when a person gets **SAVED!**

Characters of the analogy: Husband → body/old man of flesh
Wife → believing soul

v. 1 - To “brethren”, i.e. believers

- (Context is **not primarily** concerning marriage, divorce, remarriage)
- Before we are saved, our soul (wife) is married to your body of flesh (husband) and as such we are under the curse of the Law since it has dominion and rule over us.

v. 2 - General Laws of marriage:

- OT: The woman could not be loosed until the death of the husband. - v. 3
- NT: Marriage/Divorce/Remarriage: (1) Death - vv. 2-3 (same as OT), PLUS (2) Fornication - Matt. 19:9, (3) Desertion - 1 Cor. 7:10-15

v. 3 - To **mix** salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ **with any form of good works** is spiritual adultery and perverts the one and only true gospel. - Rom. 11:6

- To be dead with Christ means we are no longer spiritually connected to our dying flesh (the old man). - 1 Cor. 15:50

v. 4 - “brethren” (believers) corresponds with the wife in the words “ye also”. (bride)

- The Law itself didn't die, it remains intact; but the believer's relationship is “dead to the law by the body of Christ”. - Rom. 6:5
- The Law (as a system) has no longer has jurisdiction over the believer because Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law's just demands of us on our behalf at the cross. - Matt. 5:17
- Believers are dead to the Law by being crucified with Jesus Christ. - Gal. 2:20
- When you receive Jesus Christ by faith alone, you undergo a **spiritual** circumcision/baptism whereby the Holy Spirit enters your body and cuts your dying flesh away from your living and eternal soul. - Col. 2:11-13
- Our spiritually circumcised soul is then free to be married to Jesus Christ and become a part of His body. - Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14,27
- When this happens, God reckons you **dead with Christ** on the cross.- Rom. 6:3-4a
- At salvation, our believing soul (wife) is saved and is no longer bound to our body of flesh (husband). - Eph. 5:30-32; 1 Cor. 6:15-17
- Believers are the “Bride of Christ”. - Rev. 21:2, 9

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- Therefore, believers have a new nature and are partakers of God's divine nature. - 2 Pet. 1:3-4
- Our new nature then **wants, desires, and longs** to "bring forth fruit unto God", i.e. to obey and serve God while we are yet in these decaying and dying bodies of flesh. - Gal. 5:22-23
- Believers are to let Christ and the word live in and through them. - 1 Thess. 2:13
- The believers' job is to make our flesh a servant of God, and not allow the flesh to become or remain the boss or master of our lives. - 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Eph. 2:10

v. 5 - What life did we have under the law when we were spiritually dead in the flesh?

- Sin worked out in our bodies only fruit that brought forth death. - Gal. 5:19-21a; Prov. 14:12; James 1:13-16

v. 6 - Answers 2 questions: "How should we now serve God?" and "What life can we enjoy **now** that we are free from the curse of the Law?" - Gal. 3:10-13; Rom. 3:20

- First we need to realize that upon salvation there has been a **spiritual change** in the believer! - 2 Cor. 5:17
- The "newness of spirit" is the NT gospel of grace through faith in Jesus Christ; the "oldness of the letter" is the OT Mosaic Law. Our ministry is to be spiritual, not under Law. - 2 Cor. 3:1-18, 4:10-11
- Believers are free with complete liberty to serve God. - 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 5:1, 13
- The Holy Spirit came to indwell us and believers now have power to yield our "members as instruments of righteousness unto God" and "unto holiness". - Rom. 6:13, 19
- Spiritual service is **not** a "have-to" burden (obligation/duty), but it should rather be a "get-to" (privilege/opportunity).
- It's not how little can I get by with, but willingly seeking and following God's will without reservations or conditions in order to serve with zeal and boldness to see how much honour, glory, and pleasure we can bring to the Lord. - Col. 3:23-24

vv. 7, 12 - Purpose of the Law → to **EXPOSE** sin - Rom. 3:20; Gal 3:24

- The Law of God is **not** wrong or sinful, God's Law is perfect. - Ps. 19:7-10
- Rom. 7:12, 14 - God's Law is holy, just, good, and spiritual. - 1 Tim. 1:8
- We do not know we are sinners except by God's Law (or by God-given conscience prior to the Law). - Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:24-25
- By God's Laws we are able to learn how short we fall of God's requirement of perfection, thus showing us that we are sinners and in need of a Saviour and pointing us to Jesus Christ for salvation.
- The Law does not cause us to lust, but shows us that coveting is wrong.

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v. 8 - Sin here is described as “concupiscence” that covetous and lustful longing and insatiable desire in the heart for evil and sensual/sexual pleasures. - 1 Thess. 4:5

- Sin brings about a longing for all manner of evil, both small and great.
- The guilt associated with the sin of coveting intensifies the power of all fleshly lusts (concupiscence); thus the spiral of greater and greater sins is needed to appease the flesh. - Hos. 13:2 (Sin breeds more and greater sins!)
- The words “all manner” also mean we discover everything about our flesh is sinful.- James 2:10-11; Isa. 64:6
- Every single person except Jesus Christ is guilty of breaking all of God's laws. - Rom. 3:10-12, 19-23;
- The first sin was **NOT** when Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but that was the 1st sin imputed to man by God because it broke the direct command of God (Law). Prior to partaking of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in Gen. 3, Eve had already sinned 3 times: **1)** in Gen. 3:2 Eve **omitted** “freely” from Gen. 2:16, **2)** in Gen 3:3 Eve **added** “neither shall ye touch it” to Gen. 2:17, and **3)** Eve **changed** “thou shalt surely die” from Gen. 2:17 to “lest ye die” in Gen. 3:3. In Gen. 3:5-7 Adam and Eve also had pride and an ungodly ambition to be wise like God.

vv. 9-11 - God's Law can only produce one result in the sinner => DEATH - Rom. 6:23

- All people (since the fall of Adam and Eve) are born 1) with a sinful nature - Gen. 1:26-27 cf. Gen. 5:1-3 and 2) speaking lies - Ps. 51:5, 58:3
- Individuals are not held accountable by God “age of accountability” **until** there is knowledge of good and evil. - Deut. 1:39; 2 Sam. 12:23; Isa. 7:16; Rom. 4:8
- At that point, **before God**, we become spiritually “dead in trespasses and sins” and fall under God's judgment, wrath, and condemnation. - Eph. 2:1; John 3:18
- In other words, every individual is born in sin (with a sinful nature) but all are accounted innocent before God until such time that God's Law shows us that we are sinners against God, at which time God imputes sin against us.
- Having sinned against the commandment “Thou shalt not covet” in v. 7, at this point sin is revived (awakened) and God imputes sin, **resulting in eventual and certain physical death** as well as the second death if the person dies unsaved.
- When believers sin, we do not die spiritually because we are eternally secure in Christ. - Prov. 12:28, 14:32; John 8:51-52, 11:26; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 2:9; 1 Pet. 1:5
- All believers fall under “the umbrella” of God's love. - Rom. 8:35-39
- Without faith in Jesus Christ, we are all under the curse of the Law. - Gal. 3:10-14
- There is nothing wrong with God's Law, it is sinners who have a problem with sinning! - Rom. 7:12
- In v. 10, once sin has been imputed to us by God, the penalty is death. - Rom. 6:23
- The Law does not apply before a person knows the difference between good and evil. - Deut. 1:39

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- Sin is a great deceiver; the devil is a liar and is the father of all lies. - John 8:44

SOME LIES THAT PEOPLE BELIEVE

1. That you can sin without any accountability, punishment, or judgment.
 2. That your actions won't hurt anybody else & you can stop anytime you want to.
 3. That a loving and forgiving God will overlook your sin and won't remember it.
 4. That sin will truly satisfy your greatest desires.
- Man's sin causes death (v. 11 - "it slew me"), not the Law. God's Law brings with it the righteous and just authority to put unsaved sinners to death and cast them into eternal hell. - Luke 12:4-5; Rom. 6:23
 - The Law shuts the door on mankind's hope for eternal life; eternal life is only available by receiving forgiveness of our sins and eternal life through believing on Jesus Christ. - Rom. 3:20, 28; Gal. 2:16, 21

v. 12 - (covered above with v. 7)

- God's Law is without flaw of any kind; it is good and perfect in every way. - Ps. 19:7-10
- Nobody could fulfill its requirements, which should lead everybody to the necessity of salvation only through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

v. 13 - Is something that is good (the Law) the source of our death?

- God forbid! That would be ridiculous to believe that.
- Sin was present BEFORE God's Law was enacted. The Law causes each person to become aware of his/her sinfulness. The Law does not CAUSE death, but reveals to each sinner that we all deserve death. - Gal. 3:21-29
- Sinners breaking God's Law causes death.

v. 14 - God's Law is spiritual, but sinners in their old nature are carnal.

- All believers have **TWO NATURES**...a new spiritual godly nature and "I" the old fleshly carnal Adamic nature. - Col. 3:5-10
- As believers, how we live today and rewards at the judgment seat of Christ are dictated by which nature we yield to.

vv. 15-20 - **Doctrine of Two Natures**: Paul describing his own struggle with sin.

- **CONTEXT**: Notice he was dealing with a PRESENT struggle, AS A CHRISTIAN, while he was writing this book of Romans.
- The past tense is **not used a single time** in this passage, so those who say Paul was lost at this time are 100% wrong! (Paul was saved in about AD 35 in Acts 9, which is approx. 25 years before he wrote this book in about AD 60)
- This passage is where EVERY BELIEVER lives between the time he gets saved and when he dies or is taken up in the Rapture.
- It is a continual struggle...24/7!

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v. 15 - Paul's struggled with doing right...and sometimes he failed...and so do we!

- EXAMPLE: When we want to grow spiritually, increase our faithfulness, pray, read Bible, or go witnessing, any excuse not to do it will easily dissuade us. But when opportunities for sin come along, our old nature can easily win out.
- Just like us, Paul struggled with sin, but Paul was an example to us of how to live the Christian life. - 1 Cor. 4:16-17, 11:1; Phil. 3:17; Acts 20:24 (TRUE OF US??)

v. 16 - Paul's recognition of his inability to keep the holy Law of God proved that God's Law was good.

- This fact was already established in vv. 7 and 12
- The fact that we know we are disobedient proves we know **God's Law is right**.

v. 17 - Sin still dwells in the members of the physical fleshly body of a believer

- "dwelleth" => present tense...we are dealing with sin in a person who is saved.
- In a lost man, it is the man's soul who sins, since his eternal soul is still united with his sinful body of flesh (i.e. he is spiritually **uncircumcised**). Therefore his soul is still connected with his body and still wants to sin.
- In a saved man, the Holy Spirit has cut his/her sinful body of flesh away from his eternal soul (i.e. he is spiritually circumcised.) That new spirit wants to do right, but must be continually yielded to. - Col. 2:11-14
- EXAMPLE: Plastic ice tray after warm water has been run over the ice cubes.
- Therefore, when believers commit sin, it is the members of our bodies and our old nature connected with them that sins. *Similarly*, when believers do right, it is **NOT THE BODY** that does right *nor* should be given credit for doing right (for all it wants to do is sin), it's the **new creature** which is controlled by the Spirit of God that does right and **God** should be given credit when we do right. - Phil 2:13
- The real "I" is our eternal soul saved by the Lord Jesus Christ that has a resurrected spirit living in it. In the real "I" lives Jesus Christ, spiritually, and our new nature cannot and does not sin! - 1 John 3:9 "for his seed"; 1 John 5:18 "begotten of God"; 1 Peter 1:23

v. 18 - God's view of man's flesh: Ungodly-Rom. 5:6-8; Evil-Rom. 7:21 & Matt. 7:11; Vanity-Psalm 39:5; Vain-Judges 11:3; Unrighteous-Isaiah 64:6; Wicked-Psalm 26:5 (no wonder God desires to deal with us in our new nature!)

- There is not one solitary thing good about it, never has been and never will be!
- God recognizes believers (spiritually) as saints, Christians, justified, and righteous, etc., but this doesn't change God's assessment of our fleshly old man one iota! - Job 22:5; Ps. 7:11, 9:17, 10:3, 11:5
- Jesus' shed blood and sacrifice at Calvary is truly what impresses God, **NOTHING** in our flesh impresses God!

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- When we as believers walk in the Spirit of God, we become non-conformists with the world and its ways and we then are hated because we reject all of the world's gods. - John 15:18-19
 - As believers in this life, we must use the members of our bodies to accomplish the spiritual work of God, thus the war between our body's carnal and fleshly desires with our new spiritual man is non-stop. - Rom. 12:1-2
- v. 19 - Same as v. 15 - The believer's spiritual struggle to do right with weak flesh - Matt. 26:41
- The problem **is not** with the believer's will, it is the fleshly desires, carnal lusts, and the sensual passions of the believers' bodies that dominate our lives **if** we do not yield to and walk in the Spirit of God.
 - It takes spiritual discipline to walk with God, and few are willing to pay the price. - Gal. 5:16
 - For many Christians, their heart is not into faithfully serving God. - Matt. 15:8-9
- v. 20 - The real culprit is our yielding to the old sin nature i.e. that "sin that dwelleth in me"
- It's not the real "I" in our new nature that's the problem, but sin that still dwells in the members of our fleshly carnal bodies, which is **the root of all sin** in the believer's life.
- v. 21 - **Spiritual laws of men's nature**: The law of sin versus the law of our mind.
- We established earlier that believers have a will (or a mind) to do right but this runs counter to the law of sin, which is over the members of our fleshly bodies.
 - This verse clearly states "evil is present within me" which proves believers have two natures.
 - The old nature **WILL NOT** be eradicated until we exit our bodies either at the Rapture or through physical death.
 - The problem comes about when temptation meets up with the drive of the old sinful nature that is within. - James 1:13-16
 - The old nature is there to disrupt and corrupt ANYTHING you try to do that is right!
 - Victory in doing right comes through the power of the Holy Spirit as we yield to Him; therefore God should get the honor and glory for it, too!
- v. 22 - The new man's delight is God's Law - Psalm 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 174
- A believer's new nature delights in and loves God's Law. - Ps. 112:1

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v. 23 - Two spiritual laws actively operate in our old sinful Adamic nature

1. It is the tendency of the flesh toward sin: “the law of sin which is in my members” (in v. 23b) that results in death. cf. Rom. 8:2b “law of sin and death”.
2. It is the overwhelming and insatiable desire (and the war in the mind) for the flesh to sin. - v. 23a

- Both sides of the spiritual battle are shown in vv. 22-23 - James 4:1
- This is why the new nature by itself does not automatically conquer the flesh, to get victory over the flesh we must surrender to the Holy Spirit, pray, and stay on a continual diet of the word of God! This is why church attendance, Bible preaching & teaching, personal Bible study, praying, witnessing, etc. are vital to gaining victory over our sinful flesh. - John 7:17
- There are 168 hours in a week, how many hours are focused on spiritual things?

v. 24 - The cry of every Christian for deliverance from this old sinful fleshly body of death. - Rom. 7:18

- What a miserable, enduring marathon it is to live in these bodies of sinful flesh.
- All believers were spiritually circumcised upon getting saved, but we are still housed presently (and temporarily) in this body of death, **a jail of rotting flesh**.
- Right now, believers are **spiritually** seated with Jesus Christ in heaven **while** we are **physically** in our bodies here on earth. Right now, Jesus Christ is **physically** seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven, **while** He is **spiritually** with us in our bodies here on earth.- Eph. 2:5-6
- The new man wants out really BAD! Spiritually, our desire should be to depart and be with Jesus, in **His** timing. - Phil. 1:21-24
- Believers know being present with the Lord is our true home. - 2 Cor. 5:6-10
- WHO will deliver me?

v. 25 - Thank God, Jesus Christ will deliver all believers! - Ps. 18:2; 40:17; 70:5; 144:2

- Through death or at the Rapture. - Rom. 8:22-23
- Until then, the battle against the flesh goes on and on.
- My will (mind) wants to serve God while the flesh wants to serve the law of sin (the old sin nature). - 1 Cor. 2:15-16; Gal. 5:17