

Study of Romans – Romans 7:1-25

Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall & Winter 2012-13

Paul is still dealing with the questions that he posed in Rom 6:1 & 15

I. Death & Law (1-6)

Analogy	Application
Wife & Husband	Man & Law
Death	Baptism (Death)
Wife & New Husband	Man & Christ

Rom 6:6
Gal 2:19-20, 5:24

Rom 6:21-22
Gal 5:19-24

II. Sin & Law (7-13)

Why was the law given?

-To bring knowledge of sin (v.7, Rom 5:20; Gal 3:19)

-So the promise of salvation by faith in Christ might be given to those who believe (v. Gal 3:22)...HOW?

¹Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the *law*—that *the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?*

²For 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.

³Accordingly, 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.

⁴**Likewise**, my brothers, you also have *died to the law through the body of Christ*, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear *fruit for God*.

⁵For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear *fruit for death*.

⁶But now we are *released from the law*, having *died* to that which held us captive, so that we *serve in the new way of the Spirit* and not in the old way of the written code.

⁷What then shall we say? *That the law is sin?* **By no means!** Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “**You shall not covet.**”

⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, *sin lies dead*.

⁹I was *once alive* apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died.

¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.

¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it *killed me*.

¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, *in order that sin might be shown to be sin*, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

Why is it necessary for man to die to the law?
BECAUSE...

We are under a curse
Deut 27:26, Gal 3:10

No one can be justified by law
Rom 3:20, Gal 3:11

To “belong to another” (v.4) and “serve in the new way of the Spirit” (v.6)

Does “released from the law” imply that we are no longer expected to keep God’s commandments? Why or why not?
-Rom 6:1-4, 15
-Gal 5:13-26

Exo 20:17 - Why did Paul pick this commandment?

Phil 3:5-8

Rom 5:12

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*Building upon his argument made in vv. 7-13
 – The Law is from God (vv.22,25)*

III. Mind & Flesh (14-25)

*The Opposite
of Spiritual*

*A dramatic
explanation
of why it is
impossible
for man to
be saved by
the Law.*

¹⁴For we know that the law is *spiritual*, **but** I am of the *flesh*, sold under sin. *Slavery to Sin (Rom 5:15-23)*
¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, **but** I do the very thing I hate.
¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.
¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, **but** sin that dwells within me.
¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, **but** not the ability to carry it out.
¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, **but** the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.
²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, **but** sin that dwells within me.
²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.
²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,
²³**but** I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (*Rom 8:1-2*)
²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, **but** with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

The Law

My Mind

VS.

My Flesh

SIN

v. 14 For we know that the Law is spiritual,	but	I am of the flesh, sold under sin.
v. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want,	but	I am doing the very thing I hate.
v. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.		
v. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it,	but	sin that dwells within me.
v. 18 ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right,	but	not the ability to carry it out.
v. 19 For I do not do the good I want,	but	the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.
v. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it,	but	sin that dwells within me.
v. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.		
v. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,	but	v. 23 I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
v. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?		
v. 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind,	but	with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

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Romans Chapter 7 - Questions for Discussion

Memory Verse:

Romans 7:18 (ESV)

¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

Is Paul trying to make a specific point about marriage? If yes, what is his point? If no, why does he introduce marriage into this discussion? (vv. 1-3)

What is involved in “dying to the law” or being “released from the law?” What is the benefit to us? What would be the ending result if we did not “die to the law?” What does it mean that our sinful passions are “aroused by the law?” (vv. 4-6; Gal 2:19-20; Rom 3:20)

Does “released from the law” imply that we are no longer expected to keep God’s commandments? Why or why not? (vv. 4-6; II Cor 5:14-15; Gal 5:16-24; Titus 3:8)

What does God’s law do for us (what benefit does Paul point out)? In what sense is sin dead without the law? In what sense was Paul alive apart from the law? What is the significance of Paul stating that he “died” (v. 9) or that he was “killed” when the commandments came (v. 11)? (vv. 7-11; Matt 19:16-20; Phil 3:6)

What brings death under the law? SIN Or LAW (vv. 9, 13)

What two laws are at war within the life of man? How does Paul describe this struggle in his life? How does he describe his mind? His flesh? (vv. 14-25)

How can one escape the consequences of our imperfect nature?

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Notes

As already observed, sin and death in their correlation have occupied Paul to a great degree from 5:12 on, with an occasional reference to a third element, the law. In chapter 6 he has sought to explain that the believer's crucifixion with Christ has brought freedom from enslavement to sin's dominion. Since the law has served to promote sin (5:20), it is expedient now to show that Christ's death, which involved the death of those who are his, effected release from the law also. At the same time Paul is careful to indicate that this emancipation from the law is in order to permit a new attachment, namely, to the risen Lord and his Spirit, so that from this union might flow a fruitfulness of life unattainable under the law. Since union with Christ has already been shown to be so powerful a factor in its intended result as to warrant the figure of slavery (to righteousness), the way has been made clear to teach deliverance from the law as not opening the door to irresponsible and sinful conduct.¹

Paul's Anticipated Question(s)

Romans 6:1 (ESV)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

Romans 6:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

We are Under a Curse

Deuteronomy 27:26 (ESV)

²⁶ " 'Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

Galatians 3:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."

Can't be Justified by Law

Romans 3:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Galatians 3:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

¹ Harrison, E. F. (1976). Romans. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 10: Romans Through Galatians* (F. E. Gaebelin, Ed.) (75). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

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Crucified with Christ

Romans 6:6 (ESV)

⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Galatians 2:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 (ESV)

²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Bearing Fruit

Romans 6:21–22 (ESV)

²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Galatians 5:19–24 (ESV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Released From the Law / Released From Commandments?

Romans 6:1–4 (ESV)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

Galatians 5:13–26 (ESV)

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the

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desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

You Shall Not Covet

Exodus 20:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Why Was the Law Given?

Romans 5:20 (ESV)

²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

Galatians 3:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

Galatians 3:22 (ESV)

²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Paul’s Life Before Christ

Philippians 3:5–8 (ESV)

⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Sin Brings Death (“Killed Me”)

Romans 5:12 (ESV)

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

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Who Will Deliver Me?

Romans 8:1–2 (ESV)

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Scriptures Used in Questions

Galatians 2:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 3:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

2 Corinthians 5:13-15 (ESV)

¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Galatians 5:16-24 (ESV)

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Titus 3:7-8 (ESV)

⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

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Matthew 19:16-20 (ESV)

¹⁶ And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷ And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸ He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰ The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?”

Philippians 3:3-6 (ESV)

³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.