

**All Citizens Christian Church Calgary**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, June 17th, 2025. **Topic: THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS 7**

**THE CHRISTIAN AND THE LAW.**

The next important question which needs an answer after the Apostle has told the Romans in Rom 6: 14 saying “for sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” is what is the relationship between the Christian and the law? Should we live like lawless characters then? Again, he says the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives. And the Romans did not see themselves as dead yet until the Apostle explained to them that they should consider themselves dead to the law through the body of Christ. So that in our new life we should be married to another in order to bear fruits to Him. Many Christians want to therefore amplify grace and become lawless but that was not what the Apostle meant. Chapter 7 was therefore set to explain the relationship between the new life (Christian) and the law and to portray the struggle that goes on between the flesh and the spirit with the law just looking on. That was probably the reason why the chapter started with ‘don’t you know’ or ‘are you ignorant’? He was using fundamental legal principles to explain what he meant that the law has no power over a dead man.

The law brings man to a frustrating position in life and leaves mankind in a state of perpetual guilt and hopelessness. The law is good but we as flesh are not good since we lack the ability to keep the law. The law points us to what is good but does not provide the power to do what is good. This feeling paralyzes humanity

The law therefore dominates us and we are not able to free ourselves from the ills generated as a result of the disobedience of the law. Unfortunately, this is not a situation we can easily run away from. We are confronted by this daily. We thank God that our salvation from this tyrannical situation lies in the son of God who through His death delivered us from the challenges of the law.

OUTLINE:

1. **How does death break the marriage contract?** Rom 7: 2-3. What is the analogy of this with the believer? As death breaks the marriage relationship so does the death of the believer with Christ break the jurisdiction of the law over him. Notice that the law is not dead but we are the ones who dies. The law is alive and well and still has the power to convict anyone of sin.
2. **What is the purpose of our new life?** to bring fruits to God. Vs 4-5.
3. **And what fruits did our former life bear?** Fruits to death
4. **What was our basis for standing before God in the past and what is it now?** Verse 5. We were previously justifying ourselves in flesh but now our justification is in Christ. On both sides, the law has not moved.

THE LAW VS SIN 7-13

1. **Who and what originated these passions?** The sinful passions were originated in our flesh and not by the law. The law gives power to our sinful passions which were aroused by the law. All the law did was to show us the ills and our desire is therefore aroused as we see these ills. If we did not have those passions, the effect of the law would not be felt. For instance, a dead person cannot be subject to sin because he lacks the ability to exhibit those passions.
2. **How did we bear fruit for death**? Verse 9. Our sinful passions were aroused by the law. This sinful passion finds expression in our physical members and these are called the works of the flesh in **Gal 5:19-21**
3. **Then where is the problem?** Humans, sin or the law? Verse 13. Sin takes advantage of the law. Rom 4:15
4. **What does the Apostle mean when he says in verse 8 that apart from the law, sin was dead**. Read verse 8 in GNT.
5. **What are the limitations of the law?** The law cannot save from sin. The challenge with the law is that it is spiritual but we are carnal.
6. **How does our death with Christ deliver us from the power of the law?** Verse 6. **I Cor 15:56**. Having died in Christ, we are delivered from the power of the law because Jesus died as our representative. In His death He fulfilled the claims of the law by paying its penalty. Eph 2:15. Col 2:14. Therefore, the law has no dominion over us any longer as Jesus paid the penalty we should have paid as a result of our inability to keep the requirements of the law. Under the law we serve under fear but under Christ, we serve under love and grace because Jesus paid it all. Have you ever worked under a boss who is constantly judging you? It is like working under a taskmaster.
7. **Is the law sin?** Rom 3:20, Verse 7. The best way to look at this question is to consider the giver of the law. It might look to some people that the Apostle is looking at the law as if it is evil. The law is supposed to bring life, brought death instead. Verse 10. Lev 18:5, Ezekiel 20:11, Exo 20:17, Psalm 19:8. (The lion, the cage and the child story. Who is at fault. The cage, the lion, the instruction or the child. It is the fault of the law). No, it is not the fault of the law but the sin in us. Without the law we would never have known sin. That we do not know sin does not mean we are immune to its repercussion. It is impossible for man’s sinful nature to respond right to God’s holy law.
8. **In view of our above answer discuss some laws in the Bible such as tithe**, adultery, stealing etc.

**Rom 7:14-25.**

1. **What is the advantage of the law if any?** Verse 12. The law is a pointer to sin. It creates a standard for us to live by. Without the law, we would have no standard but we would not have a measure but perhaps we would be judging ourselves by comparing ourselves with others instead of God’s standard. **II Cor 10:12.** By the standard of the Apostle with others, he thought he was doing excellently well until he compared himself with the laws of God.

That you desire good and hate sin does not make you good. It is doing that good that can make you good.

1. **Why do you hate what you are doing?** Because the law has a standard and it tells us what to do and we find it impossible to keep to the demands of the law.
2. **Since I am not the one doing the wrong but the sin in me, how do we escape from the grip?** Verse 25. Gal 5:18, Rom 6:13, I Kings 21:20 – Determine to do right, Eph 3:16 - Strength in the inner man,
3. Explain the conflict that man goes through. Verse 14 The law shows us the right life to live but does not provide the power to live it. The more an act is forbidden, the more we want to fall into it because we lack the power to resist it.**, Gal 5:17 Prov 9:17-18**
4. **Who delivers man from this challenge that is leading man to death?** Vs 25, Psalm 1:2

Sinful nature is like a sleeping dog. When the law says don’t, the dog wakes up.