

MARRIED TO CHRIST! YOU TALK ABOUT A MOTIVE TO BE HOLY!

Dead to the Law TO Bear Fruit for God

Exposition of Romans, XXIII

Romans 7:1-6

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INTRODUCTION

I. THE STATEMENT OF A PRINCIPLE ~ 7:1

II. THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE PRINCIPLE ~ 7:2-3

III. THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE ~ 7:4-6

CONCLUSION – *Various and Sundry Applications*

- 1. Becoming a Christian is a complete change in relationship and allegiance.**
- 2. Being married to Christ is Paul's final argument against the critic who says "grace leads to license," or "grace leads to antinomianism," or "grace leads to living any way I choose."**
- 3. Marriage to Christ means freedom.**
- 4. Marriage to Jesus means newness of life.**
- 5. Newness of life bears fruit for God.**
- 6. Freedom tells me what is my highest treasure: Jesus Himself.**

For Further Study: Deuteronomy 30:5-6; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27; Acts 15:10; Luke 22:20; 24:27; John 5:39; Romans 8:9; 13:8-10; II Corinthians 3:1-3, 6, 18; Galatians 3:10, 19, 22-23; 5:6, 16-23; Ephesians 4:25-5:4, 9-10; Colossians 2:6, 14; I Timothy 1:5, 15; Hebrews 13:20-21

Marriage does entail a significant loss of freedom and independence. You cannot live now simply as you choose.

A single person can make decisions unilaterally - but a married person cannot. There is no duty and obligation. BUT, on the other hand, there is now the possibility of an experience of love and intimacy and acceptance and security that you could not have as a single person.

Because of this love and intimacy, our loss of freedom is a joy not a burden. In a good marriage, your whole life is affected and changed by the wishes and desires of the person you are in love with. *You get pleasure from giving pleasure. You seek to discover the wishes of the beloved and are happy to make changes in accord with those wishes.*

So now Paul has given us the ultimate answer to how Christians live. We are not “under law,” in that we don’t obey the law out of fear of rejection. In other words, we aren’t using the law as a system of salvation, a way of acceptance or access to God, a ladder up to him. **No** - Jesus’ perfect life and death is the ladder up to God, and we are accepted in Him.

So does the Christian ignore the moral law of God? Not at all- we now look at it as expressing the desires of God. He loves honesty, purity, generosity, truth, integrity, kindness, and so on. *We now use the law to please the one who saved us.*

So we are not “under the law”- we are not married to it. **We are married to Christ, we are seeking to please him, and so the law’s precepts are ways to honor the one we love. They are now not a burden.**

~ Adapted from Tim Keller