



## Romans 7 - Revealed- Belonging

Why are you doing what you are doing? Why do you do most of the things you do? There is a war being waged in our members. There are societal pressures to do and respond certain ways. There are internal demands to react. There are even well meaning pieces of advice that insist we do thus and so. Why? There is a struggle to reconcile law and gospel in the heart of a Christian. We have the weight of the demands of holiness put upon a frame that cannot support it. So we just kind of muddle through, following our flesh and hoping for the best. The grip of the curse of the law is tight on our hearts. Paul would have that grip torn free.

1. The law is binding - until death
  - Marriage example-
  - Bound by law as long as he lives
  - Released from law at his death

Clear Points- The law does not change. The demand is not lessened. The circuit is completed by the death of her husband. - God does not lessen the demand of the law. He does not excuse our sin as we do. He rather completes the circuit, by burying us with Christ.

2. Brothers, You also have died
  - an announcement to brothers -

1 John 1:3-4 "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."

- Through the body of Christ- how you have died- how united to Christ we are.
- That you may belong to another- LIGHT in the darkness- tell your flesh, your sin, your emotions, your will, your thoughts, your advisors. Your confusion.. "You are free to belong to another"
- To him who was raised- if the miracle of union with Christ surpasses knowledge to you, remember we are speaking of the power of him who stopped being dead.
- So that you may bear fruit for God-

Freed from the curse of the law- that you might obey God and his laws. This is the genius of God. He knows our strong internal demands that are incited by the law telling us yes and no. He doesn't just want to give us impossible rules, He enables us to keep them. He demands holiness and provides the means to accomplish holy acts.

3. The way things "used" to be
  - While we lived in the flesh- Paul speaks of flesh ruled lives as if they are done with.
  - Our passions stirred up by the law- This is who we are in the flesh. This is the logic and reason we often depend on. Our flesh demands that we do contrary to the law for no other reason than that we are told NO.
  - It brought fruit for death - Does what you are doing bring fruit for God or for death?

4. We Serve - a new way to serve God. Not trying to please him from a heart that desperately wants to rebel against him. But being free to love and serve God from a heart that is not bound to the passions of my flesh because it:

- IS NO LONGER CAPTIVE- Not a slave to sin and death
- IS BEING AND HAS BEEN PUT TO DEATH
- HAS BEEN RELEASED TO LOVE AND SERVE ANOTHER

The law doesn't change. We are changed from frustrated Code people. To glad Spirit people.

How then shall we live:

- Allow the Scriptures to convince your heart of its freedom.
- Commit to the one who was raised from the dead- then bear fruit for him- If God be God then serve Him.
- What is your fruit and why do you have it?