

## Teaching Notes – Romans Chapter 7

### Verses 1 – 6 The law and the Metaphor of Marriage

- Marriage is a lifelong union between the man and the woman
- If one joins with another while married that is adultery – a violation of the Law
- However, if the husband dies, the requirement to the law is ended and one is free to marry another
- When Jesus died on the cross for our sins He died to crucify the flesh- the rebel – the fallen nature.
- He death has freed us from being “married” to the sinful nature
- We are now free to marry another – the resurrected Jesus – with freedom from the law
- We are now living under grace
- The law defined sin which then aroused in us sinful desires
- Our old way of life – married to the flesh, resulted the fruit of “death”
- Being released from the power of the law – we are rendered dead to sin
- Our new marriage to Jesus and grace allows us power to be free and lead by the Holy Spirit

### Example form 1 Corinthians 6:16-20

<sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that he who is joined<sup>[d]</sup> to a prostitute becomes one body with Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin<sup>[e]</sup> a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

### Galatians 5:19 – 24

- The deed of the flesh are corrupt and can not please God
- Being joined with Christ produces the fruit of the Spirit
- Notice – not works, but being joined to Christ

**John 15:1- 8** We bear fruit because we are joined with Christ

**Galatians 3: 1-3; 10- 14** – the law and the curse

### VS 7-10 The Purpose of the Law

1. The Law was given to expose our sinful nature (Rom 7:7)
2. To incite the sin nature to sin more (Rom 7:8ff)
3. To drive us to despair of self effort (Rom 7:24-25)
4. To drive us to depend on the Holy Spirit alone (Rom 8:1-4)

- The law is not sin
- The law gives me a clear definition of sin
- What is forbidden becomes attractive – “don’t ring the bell” – Magicians Nephew – CS Lewis
- Eve in the Garden – don’t eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – death
- No law – low awareness of sin
- When I learned of the rules, I learned how sinful I really was and helpless
- The law bring sin into clear view and reveals the rebel within me
- My sinful nature wanted to act out which brings death
- The law is holy, and good and correct
- In my flesh I am condemned because I break the law

### **Jeremiah 17: 5-6**

Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

### **VS 13-25 – The Conflict Within and The Way Out**

- We agree that the Law is good and right and brings life
- When we try to do the works of the law in our flesh, (our own strength) we fail miserably
- My sin nature conflicts with my Spiritual nature
- How can I be free from this cycle of sin?
- What is the way out?
- God and His mighty power in Jesus Christ has made the way forward
- Through the cross, His death, burial and resurrection we have new life in the Holy Spirit
- We can be led by the Holy Spirit and be free from the law of sin and death.

Roman 8:14 – led by Spirit – sons of God

Gal 5:18 – led by Spirit no longer under the law

I Tim 1:8-9 – Law is not for the righteous but for the wicked

### **Only Two Possibilities**

1. You are under the law (cursed)
2. You are under grace (blessed)