


## ROMANS 7

Our Identification in Jesus: Review Romans 3-6		
Verses	WHO WE WERE: DEAD	WHO WE ARE: ALIVE
3:21 5:18	♦ Declared guilty before God	♦ Declared righteous (justified) before God
Deut.28:1-2; Eph.1:3	♦ Blessed by obeying the law ♦ Cursed for not obeying the law	♦ Already blessed apart from works ♦ NOT cursed (Galatians 3:13)
5:1	♦ At war with God	♦ At peace with God
5:4	♦ Defeated in tribulations	♦ Victorious & jubilant in tribulations
5:4-5	♦ Hopeless	♦ Full of hope (joyful anticipation)
5:6	♦ Helpless, without strength	♦ Strong and have a Helper
5:7	♦ Ungodly	♦ Godly
5:8, 19, Col.1:22	♦ Sinners	♦ Saints, righteous, holy, blameless
5:9	♦ Destined for wrath	♦ Saved from wrath
5:10	♦ No relationship with God	♦ Reconciled (relationship established) with God
5:15	♦ Dead in Adam	♦ Alive in Jesus
5:17	♦ Many transgressions	♦ Super-abundant grace
5:17, 21	♦ Death reigned through Adam	♦ We reign in life with abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness
5:18-19	♦ Righteousness based on perfect obedience to the law	♦ Righteousness based on Christ's perfect obedience and faith in Him
6:2-8, 12	♦ Alive to sin ♦ Captive of sin ♦ Sin ruled us (was our master) ♦ We presented our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness	♦ Dead to sin ♦ Freed from sin ♦ We rule over sin ♦ We present our bodies as instruments of righteousness to God
6:5 Col. 3:3	♦ Dead	♦ Raised with Christ: newness of life ♦ Life hidden with Christ in God
Romans 6:14	♦ Under law	♦ Under grace
<b>YOU ARE NOT UNDER LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE.</b>		
<p><b>VERY IMPORTANT!!!</b> We cannot be under both law and grace. They are mutually exclusive. Grace, by its very nature is UNBALANCED in our favor. Grace, not law, is what now teaches us.</p> <p><i>Titus 2:11-12</i> For the <b>grace of God</b> that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <b>12 teaching us</b> that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <b>14</b> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.</p>		
6:17	♦ Slaves of sin	♦ Slave (figuratively) of righteousness
6:23	♦ Death	♦ Eternal Life (now and in the future)

## Romans 7

Romans 6:14 states, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

➤ Paul now illustrates how it is that we are not under law, but under grace.

### Romans 7:1

*Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?*

- ♦ Paul is addressing those who understand the Law of Moses.
- ♦ He will show that as long as someone lives he/she is bound to the law. (*While true about marriage, this isn't meant to be a teaching on marriage.*)

### Romans 7:2-4

*For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. <sup>3</sup>So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.*

- ♦ The problem is, Law (our husband), won't die! Solution, we die to the Law through the body of Christ (something that would be impossible in the natural realm). We are thus dead to what bound us. It no longer has any legally binding control over us because WE died.
- ♦ We were raised in Christ and are free to "marry another".
- ♦ We have been joined to Christ and now we bear fruit for God.
- ♦ We are free from ANY religious "law" that attempts to make us acceptable to God or **more** acceptable, or **holier**, or **more** powerful, or **more** righteous or closer. (This would be as if we are saying, "Good job, Jesus! Now, let me get in there and REALLY get the job done.)
- ♦ To go back under religious laws is the same as leaving Jesus and going back to our old husband...**an unthinkable ADULTERY.**  
*Galatians 5:4-5 (Amplified Bible)*  
*If you seek to be justified and declared righteous and to be given a right standing with God through the Law, you are brought to nothing and so separated (severed) from Christ. You have fallen away from grace (from God's gracious favor and unmerited blessing).*
- ♦ **WHY ON EARTH WOULD WE WANT TO GO BACK UNDER THE LAW** or bring ourselves under any other man-made traditions and laws? In many instances it is because we want to please God and we think that in order to please God, we should obey religious laws. However, we live a Spirit-led, not a Law-led life.

**Romans 7:5**

*For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.*

- ◆ Before we came to Jesus, the law awakened sinful passions in us!
- ◆ We were, past tense, in the flesh.

**Romans 8:9**

*However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.*

*God forgave EVERYONE at the cross. He is not imputing sins against them, but they are still dead.*

*Only those who believe and receive Jesus will have eternal life.*

*All Christians can walk in freedom and grace, but many come back under religious laws, and are estranged from Jesus.*

*Only those who continue in grace, and not the law, will live in true freedom and the full benefits of the cross.*

**Romans 7:6**

*But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.*

- ◆ “Have been”, and “having died” are in the past tense showing what was already accomplished in us. We WERE released from the Law and we DIED to it and are therefore released from any former obligation.
- ◆ Therefore we serve in newness of the Spirit: freedom, grace, being the beloved of God, loving one another.

*In chapter 6 Paul asked two questions: Do we sin so we can have more grace, and since we are not under law but under grace do we go ahead and sin? Now he is asking the next logical question. If law aroused our sinful passions and held us bound, then it must be sinful, right?”*

**Question #3**

**Romans 7:7-8**

*What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “YOU SHALL NOT COVET.”<sup>8</sup> But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.*

- ◆ Without the Law, sin is dead. With the Law, sin is alive or revived.

- ◆ Sin takes opportunity through the law! Before Christ, the law reveals sin.
- ◆ When Christians allow themselves to get under religious laws, sin takes advantage of the law.
  - We have a tendency to turn just about anything into a religious law.
- ◆ Sin will produce in us the very thing we are trying to use the law to stop doing (or to do).
- ◆ What law said, “You shall not covet”? The 10th commandment of the Law.
  - Critics of the gospel of grace often say Christians are free from the ceremonial laws and keeping feasts, but not the Ten Commandments. Paul made no such distinction. This is one of the verses that confirms that when Paul said “the Law” he was referring to the whole Law, INCLUDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.
  - Following are verses to show that the Old Covenant was actually BASED on the Ten Commandments.

**Exodus 34:28**  
*So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.*

**Deuteronomy 4:13**  
*So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.*
  - The verse below confirms that we are not under the commandments written and engraved on stones.

**2 Corinthians 3:5-8 NKJV**  
*Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup> who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. <sup>7</sup> But if the ministry of death, **written and engraved on stones**, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, <sup>8</sup> how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?*
  - **But...Jesus quoted the Law, so it must be for us, right?**
    - When Jesus quotes the law, He was speaking to the Jews who were still under the law at that time. He had not yet communicated the one command of the New Covenant.

**Matthew 22:38-40**  
*Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

The rest of this chapter is debated by theologians.

There are three main views.

**View One:** Paul is talking about His experience of trying to keep the Law before becoming a Christian.

*C. D. Hildebrand 2009, 2010*

**View Two:** Paul is explaining the normal experience of the Christian life; that we can't do what we want and do things we don't want (a view MOST theologians reject).

**View Three:** Paul is explaining the life of a Christian who has come back under the Law which amounts to trying to live the Christian life in his flesh.

There are several reasons to believe that View Three is the proper perspective.

1. Paul says in verse nine, *"I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive (again) and I died."*
  - ♦ At no time in Paul's life before becoming a Christian was Paul not under the Law. He was circumcised the eighth day of his life and raised under the Law and followed it perfectly.
  - ♦ He apparently didn't struggle with obeying the Law as he understood it.
    - **Philippians 3:4-6** *If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*
  - ♦ He says that he was once alive "apart from the Law". Before Jesus we are dead. After salvation we are alive apart from the law. So, Paul was saying he was alive at one time and free from the Law. **This can only be as a believer.**
  - ♦ At some point, "the commandment came" which is to say, he got back under the Law. Most likely since he had been a Pharisee, law easily presented itself.
  - ♦ The power of sin is the Law. When Paul got back under the Law, sin became alive again and he died.
    - When Christians allow themselves to get back under law and try to be made righteous by doing this and not doing that, FRUSTRATION ensues.

### Romans 7:9

*I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died;*

- ♦ **IMPORTANT:** "Became alive" is *anazao*; from [G303](#) and [G2198](#); to live **again**: - became alive, come to life **again**. NKJV says, "sin revived". Amplified says, "sin lived again".
- ♦ When was Paul alive apart from the law? It was at his conversion. He became alive and was free from apart from the Law.
- ♦ When did the "commandment come"? It was likely within the first ten years of his Christian walk, sometime before his grace revelation. (Perhaps he came across Judaizers who convinced him he still needed to keep the Law as a believer (one who is alive apart from the Law).

**Galatians 2:1** *Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. <sup>2</sup>It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.*

### Romans 7:10-11

*and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; <sup>11</sup>for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.*

- ♦ Sin takes opportunity of the commandment, and it deceives us (seduces wholly), because of condemnation, guilt, and feeling helpless.
- ♦ **FALSE PROMISES!!!** The Judaizers promise that if we follow their rules and formulas, we will have “life”...more life, closer relationship, become more holy, have more power, have financial success, see manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and get from God what we want from Him. Trying to live the Christian life by using laws or formulas; that is to say, “in the flesh”, results in death.
- ♦ **SIN IS EMPOWERED BY THE LAW!!!** Sin will take an advantage of us through laws. It will deceive us and kill us.  
*1 Corinthians 15:56*  
*The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.*
- ♦ **THE TRUTH IS!!!** Only through **faith** in Jesus Christ can we obtain life and live the Spirit-led life.

### Romans 7:12

*So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

- ♦ Paul is answering his own question, “So, is the Law sin?” The answer is, “No. The law is not sin.”

*Psalm 19: 7-11*

*<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;*

*The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*

*<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,*

*Yea, than much fine gold;*

*Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

### Romans 7:13-14

*Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful. <sup>14</sup>For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh sold into bondage to sin.*

- ♦ Paul is not saying the Law is sin. He is saying sin is sin. The Law shows us that our sin is utterly sinful.
- ♦ Paul is talking about someone who is living under the law, **NOT THE LIFE OF SOMEONE UNDER GRACE**. If we live in the flesh, and try to please God by obeying the Law, even though it is holy, we will come back under bondage to the very law to which we died in Jesus. We are new creations, created to function under grace, not the law or any religious law; to live in the Spirit and not in the flesh. We are justified by faith, not by works. When we try to live in both worlds, we are going to be **frustrated**.

*Romans 7:6*

*But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.*

*Romans 8:9*

*But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

**Galatians 2:16-21**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

17“*But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.*”

- ♦ The law is NOT MADE FOR A RIGHTEOUS PERSON WHICH WE ARE.

**1 Timothy 1:5-11**

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, <sup>6</sup> from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, <sup>7</sup> desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. <sup>8</sup>

But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup> knowing this: that the law is **not made for a righteous person**, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, <sup>10</sup> for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, <sup>11</sup> according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

**It is very important to take verses 15-25 in context.**

**Paul has just written declared us freed from sin, and free from the law, and shown that we are righteous by faith apart from the law, and in Romans 8, he speaks of a life of God’s love and victory in the Spirit. So, what is this conflicted, mixed-up, schizophrenic way of living that Paul is describing? Why does he end up saying he is wretched/miserable?**

**The following is a perfect picture of a believer attempting to please God in the flesh by following the Law.**

**Believers CANNOT be at peace living in the flesh. We cannot please God by obeying the law of Moses or any other spiritual law.**

**because we are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit.**

**Romans 7:15-16**

*For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate <sup>16</sup>But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.*

- ♦ When Paul was under the law he was not convicted, he thought he was blameless, after he got saved and tried to live as a Christian under the law is when the huge battle inside him erupted.

**Philippians 3:4-6**

*If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

- ◆ The law IS good, but we are not married to it any longer.

**Romans 7:17-18**

*So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.*

- ◆ Our flesh is not capable of accomplishing God's righteousness.

**Romans 7:19-23**

*For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. <sup>20</sup> But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. <sup>21</sup> I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. <sup>22</sup> For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, <sup>23</sup> but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.*

- ◆ How did the sin which was dead to him come to dwell in him? How did evil come to be present in him, how did Paul become a prisoner of the law of sin?
- ◆ It (sin) came alive through trying to live the Christian life under the law (in the flesh).
- ◆ We were NOT created in Christ to live under spiritual laws. When we do, we open ourselves to frustration and deception.

**Romans 15:56**

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;*

**Romans 8:2**

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

- ◆ If we find ourselves not able to do what we want and doing things we don't want to do, we need to **stop, look, and listen**. There is a high possibility that we have come under the law or some law which is frustrating God's grace. (A law lurks!)

**Romans 7:24-25**

*Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.*

- ◆ "Wretched" means miserable/exhausted. Trying to live the Christian life in the flesh (according to law) leaves us miserable.
- ◆ Paul is asking who will rescue him from this miserable predicament.



- ♦ He answers his own question and gives praise to God for the answer: Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. In other words, Jesus Christ our Lord rescues us from living this death (mixture).
- ♦ We will either live in the flesh serving the law of sin (the law of sin and death) or we will live in the spirit and with our mind (inward man, mind and heart) serve the law of God.
- ♦ Paul is not talking about the Law of Moses when he writes “law of God”. He means the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (see Rom. 8:2).
- ♦ We are not of the law, flesh, sin, and death but of grace, spirit, righteousness, and life.

Old Covenant	➔ New ➔ Covenant
DEATH	LIFE
FLESH	SPIRIT
LAW	GRACE
SIN	RIGHTEOUSNESS
SINNER	RIGHTEOUS

**New American Bible Commentary** for verses 13-25 reads: “Far from improving the sinner, law encourages sin to expose itself in transgressions or violations of specific commandments (see Romans 1:24; 5:20). Thus persons who do not experience the justifying grace of God, and Christians who revert to dependence on law as the criterion for their relationship with God, will recognize a rift between their reasoned desire for the goodness of the law and their actual performance that is contrary to the law. Unable to free themselves from the slavery of sin and the power of death, they can only be rescued from defeat in the conflict by the power of God’s grace working through Jesus Christ.”

### **Romans 8:1-4**

*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

- ♦ We will begin chapter 8 next time, but do keep in mind that there are no chapters in Paul’s letters. He continues his thought with “therefore” meaning, based on what he has just shown in the previous chapters, there is no condemnation (negative consequence) for those who are in Christ Jesus.