



The Believer's Freedom from the Law, Pt. 3

Romans 7:1-6

I. The Principle of Law (v. 1)

II. The Illustration of Marriage (vv. 2-3)

III. The Application to a Believer's Life (vv. 4-6)

- A. In Christ, you are free to belong to _____, and to bear the fruit of life (v. 4) [Rom. 8:1-2; Gal. 2:19; 5:18; Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14; Jn. 15:5; Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 8:4]
- B. Before Christ, your sinful passions were _____ by the law, and you bore the fruit of death (v. 5) [Rom. 5:20; Psalms 1:1-2; 119:97]
- C. Now, released from the law, you can serve in the _____ way of the Spirit (v. 6) [2 Cor. 3:5-6; Jer. 31:31-33; Ezek. 36:26-27; Rom. 2:27, 29; Lk. 22:19-20]
 1. The Old Covenant makes **demands** you can't keep; the New Covenant gives you **desires** that you can follow (Ex. 31:18; Deut. 4:13; Deut. 6:1-2; Lev. 26:14-17; Deut. 28:15ff; Rom. 6:22; Gal. 5:22-23; Ezek. 26:26-27)
 - a) The Old Covenant was _____ given to Israel by Moses at Mt. Sinai
 - b) The 10 Commandments are the _____ of the Old Covenant, which God made with Israel
 - c) There is only one problem—Israel _____ keep all the commandments

- d) In Christ, we are no longer under this covenant of Law, but rather we are under _____
2. The Old Covenant was written on **stone**; the New Covenant is written on your **heart** (Ex. 31:18; Deut. 4:13; Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 36:26; 2 Cor. 3:3)
 - a) Moses received the Old Covenant as it was written on _____
 - b) God's commands in the Old Covenant were engraved in stone and were _____, righteous, and unchanging in their character and in their purpose
 - c) But they stood _____ the people and only condemned the Israelites when the commandments were broken
 - d) The Law shows us God's _____ but cannot give us the power to keep it
 - e) God's law in the New Covenant is written on the _____
3. The Old Covenant requires **punishment** and **penalty**; the New Covenant, through the blood of Jesus, provides **forgiveness** and **freedom**
 - a) The Old Covenant was a covenant of _____ (2 Cor. 3:5-9; Rom. 7:12; Isa. 28:15, 18; Deut. 27:26; Gal. 3:10)
 - b) The New Covenant is a covenant of _____ (2 Cor. 3:6, 14-17, 18; 4:4)

TAKE HOME:

- How does understanding the difference between the Old Covenant's external rules and the New Covenant's internal transformation _____ the way you approach obedience to God in your daily life?
- In what ways can you focus more on knowing and _____ Jesus, rather than simply following a list of religious "do's and don'ts"?
- How can you rely on the _____ to guide and empower you to bear spiritual fruit, rather than trying to please God through your own efforts?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* These questions are designed to help you apply today's message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Am I living in the freedom Christ has given me, or am I still trying to earn God's approval through my own efforts? (Romans 8:1-2; Galatians 2:19-21)
2. Do I seek to know and love Jesus more deeply each day, or do I focus more on religious rule-keeping? (2 Corinthians 3:18; John 15:5)
3. Is my obedience to God motivated by external pressure or by a transformed heart that desires to please Him? (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:33)
4. Am I relying on the Holy Spirit to empower me to bear spiritual fruit, or am I trying to do it in my own strength? (Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 8:4)
5. When I read the Bible, am I looking for a list of do's and don'ts, or am I seeking to see the glory of Jesus? (2 Corinthians 3:14-18; Luke 24:27)
6. Do I regularly thank God for the forgiveness and freedom I have through Christ, or do I still feel condemned by my past failures? (Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 3:6)
7. In what ways am I allowing God's Word to be written on my heart, shaping my desires and actions? (Jeremiah 31:33; 2 Corinthians 3:3)
8. How am I intentionally keeping my focus on Jesus in my daily life, relationships, work, and worship? (Hebrews 12:2; Colossians 3:17)

"The law discovers the disease, but does not heal it. It shows our wound, but does not bind it up; it makes nothing perfect. It is weak through the flesh; the law could not do what the gospel does."

- Matthew Henry