

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
Part 14 of 28 You Are Free From the Law
Romans 7:1-13

REVIEW: There are five major divisions of the book of Romans.

1. _____ - why we need God, why we need Christ in our lives
2. _____ - deals with how to become a Christian.
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

THIRD MAJOR SECTION -- Sanctification -- How to live the Christian life.

The key word in Romans 7 is the word "LAW". Chapter 7 is about freedom from the law for the Christian. This is probably one of the most important chapters in the Bible relating to the Christian life.

There are three major sections in this chapter:

1. V:1-3 - the Reasons we're freed from the Law
2. V: 4-6 - the Results of being freed from the Law
3. V: 7-13 - the Purpose of the Law

1. THE REASON WE'RE FREE FROM THE LAW

What is the Law? The Ten Commandments and all of those laws in the Old Testament that God had given. We talked about legalism is any system of belief that says I can earn God's approval by working for it. But it's by grace we live the Christian life. We start in chapter 7 talking about being freed from the law.

Do you not know brothers. Paul is talking to Christians. *... for I am speaking to men who know the law has authority over man only as long as he lives.*

Once a person has died the law has no effect on them. Paul then gives us an illustration and he uses marriage as the illustration of how Christians are dead to the law.

v. 2-3 *For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies she's released from the law of marriage. So then if she marries another man while her husband is still alive she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies she is released from the law and she's not an adulteress even though she marries another man.*

Paul says we have all died. Our old husband was the law. So the obvious question is: Who is our new husband?

v. 4 *...so my brothers you died to the Law through the body of Christ that you might belong to another but to Him who was raised from the dead.*

The other husband is Jesus. We were married to the Law. Before you became a Christian the Law just told you what to do. We kept blowing it. We couldn't keep up. But then we died to it in Christ and now we are married to Christ.

2. FOUR RESULTS OF BEING FREE FROM THE LAW

A. You have a new _____. *So my brothers you died to the Law through the body of Christ. In v. 3 he says of the wife, If her husband dies she's released from the law. That means you're not under the law.*

B. You have a new _____. *You died to the Law through the body of Christ that you might belong to another.*

C. You have a _____ . *That you might belong to Him who was raised from the dead in order that we might bear fruit to God.*

v. 6 But now by dying to what once was bound to us we have been released from the Law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

D. A new _____.

3. THE PURPOSES OF THE LAW

A. The Law _____ sin. It shows us what sin is. *v. 7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except for the Law. I wouldn't have known what it was to covet if the Law had not said, 'Do not covet'.*

B. The Law _____ sin. *v. 8-9 But sin seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandments produced in me every time of covetous desire. For apart from the Law sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from the Law. But with the commandment sin sprang to life and I died.*

v. 5 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the Law were at work in our bodies so we bore fruit for death.

C. The Law _____ us and _____ us.
v. 10 I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin seizing the opportunity afforded me by the commandment deceived me and through the commandment put me to death.

D. The Law shows us the _____ of God. It tells us what God's like.

v. 12 So then the Law is holy and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Galatians 3:23-24 Before this faith came we were held prisoners by the Law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the Law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come we are no longer under the supervision of the Law.