

The Necessity of Death

Romans 7:1-13

Introduction

I The Law's Authority Illustrated

- A. The Law has authority only over the **living**
- B. The Law's **limited** authority illustrated:
 - 1. A married woman is **bound** by the law
 - a. As long as her husband is alive - 1 Cor 7:39a
 - b. And is guilty of adultery if she remarries - Lk 16:18
 - 2. A widowed woman is **released** from the law
 - a. If her husband dies
 - b. And is free to marry another - 1 Cor 7:39

II The Law's Authority Applied

- A. Our relationship to the Law because of Christ
 - 1. We died to the law through Christ - Gal 3:23-25; Rom 6:6
 - a. That we might **belong** to another; Christ
 - b. That we might bear **fruit** to God - Gal 5:22-23; Eph 2:10
- B. Our relationship to the Law before conversion
 - 1. We were **controlled** by the sinful nature - Gal 5:24
 - 2. Our sinful passions were aroused by the law - Rom 6:13
 - 3. We bore the fruit of **death** - Rom 6:23
- C. Our relationship to the Law after conversion
 - 1. We have **died** to what once bound us - Rom 7:4
 - 2. We have been **released** from the Law
 - a. To serve in the **new** way of the Spirit - Rom 2:29
 - b. Not in the **old** way of the written code - 2 Cor 3:6

III The Law's Authority Reiterated

- A. Is the law sin? NO!
- B. Rather, the law **exposes** the sinfulness of sin - Rom 3:20
 - 1. Paul's response to the law of coveting
 - a. Sin seized the opportunity afforded by the law
 - b. The law produced every kind of coveting
 - c. Apart from the law, sin is dead - Rom 4:15
 - 2. Paul's response to the law in general

- a. Prior to the law, Paul was alive apart from the law
- b. After the law, sin sprang to life and Paul died
- c. The law brought death instead of life because:
 - 1. Sin seized the opportunity
 - 2. Sin **deceived** me - 2 Cor 11:3; 1 Tim 2:14
 - 3. Sin put me to death

IV The Law's Authority Affirmed

- A. The **nature** of the Law affirmed
 - 1. The Law is holy
 - 2. The Law is **righteous** - Gal 3:21
 - 3. The Law is good - 1 Tim 1:8
- B. The **value** of the Law affirmed
 - 1. It makes sin **recognizable**
 - 2. It produces death in us - Rom 6:23
 - 3. It makes sin utterly **sinful**

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Have you ever been in trouble with the law? What happened?
2. How does Paul use marriage to illustrate the believers' relationship to the law? Do you feel more "married" to the living Christ or to some religious code?
3. According to Rom 7:4, what is the goal of being united with Christ? How would you describe the fruit in your life? What could you do to become a more fruitful Christian?
4. Why do you think God's Law was given to us? 1) As a means of salvation 2) As a guide to follow once we are saved by grace 3) As an impossible hurdle to point us to God's grace. [Hint: Read Rom 3:19-20; 5:20; 7:10, 12, 20; Gal 3:20-25]
5. Describe from personal experience the difference between "serving in the new way of the Spirit" vs. "in the old way of the written code". Which best describes your experience now?
6. Take a moment to thank God for the Law and the positive impact it has had in your life in leading you to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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