

Romans 7

Romans 7.1-6

V1 – Whom is Paul talking to? Mainly to the Jews (those acquainted with the Old Law)

- Explain the second part of the verse?** We must obey all laws, as long as they do not conflict with the gospel of Christ
- In other words, we cannot intentionally run a stop sign as long as we live for Christ
- We are always under some kind of law

V 2-3 – What was the illustration of this principle? A husband and wife are bound to each other as long as both are alive

- Verses on divorce: *Matthew 5.27-32, Matthew 19.1-10, 1 Corinthians 7.39*
- Is this permanent aspect of marriage popular in the United States today?** No
- Are there any practical reasons why divorce is bad?** When the writer of these notes taught at the high school level, just about every discipline problem involved a student from divorced parents

V4 – Analogy: Old Law = husband

- Disciples of Christ = wife
- The Old Law died so we can be joined to the new law

V5 – Laws sometimes make good things seem bad and make us want them more

- Examples?** When books at school are banned, those are the books that get read the most
- Another example: The use of alcohol during the Prohibition era – Because it was illegal, the brewing business boomed

V6 – Released from the Law: *John 19.30 – “It is finished.”*

- When were we released from the Old Law?** When Christ died on the cross and the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom – **Read Colossians 2.14**

Romans 7.7-13

V7 – Why was Paul still grateful of Old Testament? It taught us right from wrong and the basic principles of morality - See *Romans 15.4*

V8 – Who took advantage of God’s first law? The serpent

- Same thing happened to the Jews and Paul
- It is like trying not to think about a pink elephant for five minutes

V9 – When had Paul lived without the Law? As a child

- In what sense did he die?** He could not keep the Old Law perfectly; therefore, he "died" in his sins

V 12 – Did Paul criticize the law? No, but sin took advantage of the weaknesses of the Law

V 13 – The Old Law became "sinful," because it encouraged sin (stirred up our passions to do what was forbidden and took advantage of our inability to keep from sinning)

-Think about what happens when we see a sign on a park bench that says, "Wet paint."

-**What are we sorely tempted to do (and usually give in and end up doing)?** We have to touch the bench to see if the paint is really wet

Romans 7.14-20

V 14 – Dualism (again) – conflict of spirit and flesh

-*V 14* is an excellent example – sold into slavery and overcome by sin

V 15 – Paul speaks to each of us here

-**Why is losing weight so hard?** We know what we need to do, but we are too weak and end up eating the whole box of chocolates!

V 16 – Paul ended up doing what he was determined not to do

V 17 – Therefore what was in control of the life of Paul (when he lived under the Law)? Sin

V 18 – The Spirit is willing, but...? See *Matt. 26.41, Mark 14.38*

V 19 – Paul was frustrated and kept expressing that frustration of doing what he did not want to do

V 20 – Sin was continuing to dwell in him, to his great disappointment

Romans 7.21-25

V 21 – Were his intentions good? Absolutely, but he still did evil

V 22 – Where did the law of God reign? In the "inner" man (his soul, his thoughts, his intentions)

V 23 – What was fighting his "inner man"? The members of his body, which were waging war with his mind

-Example: A person on diet, but he eats a donut with 1000 calories

-Other passages: *1 Timothy 1.15* – Paul said that he was the chief of sinners

-*Ephesians 3.8* – He called himself the least of the saints

-*1 Corinthians 15.9* – His actions were evil because he persecuted the church of God

V 24-25 – Conclusion: The Law tells us right from wrong, but that does not always stop us from sinning

-The answer? The death of the flesh through Jesus – **Read Romans 6.6**
-In other words, we die to sin, just as our savior died on the cross

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