

DEAD MARRIAGE
ROMANS 7:1-6
5/18/25

I. PRINCIPLE

Romans 7:1 - “Or do you not know, brothers — for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?”

A. The Law has no power after death

II. PRINCIPLE ILLUSTRATED

Romans 7:2-3 - “For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.”

A. Marriage principle – You cannot have two husbands

B. Death severs her relationship to the law

III. PRINCIPLE APPLIED

Romans 7:4 - “Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.”

A. Christians are freed from the law to belong to another

B. How? – Through Christ

*Romans 6:3-7 - “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if **WE HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH HIM IN A DEATH LIKE HIS**, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For **ONE WHO HAS DIED HAS BEEN SET FREE FROM SIN.**”*

C. Purpose? – To belong to another

D. Result? – To bear fruit for God

*John 15:1-5 - “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²**EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT HE TAKES AWAY**, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. **AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF**, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”*

IV. THE TRANSITION

Romans 7:5-6 - "For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code."

A. The transition from being married to the flesh to being married to God

B. Fleshly power - sin, the law, and death

C. Spiritual power - Holy Spirit

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What challenged your thinking or stood out to you?
2. What are some ways today that people live as if they were still bound to the law instead of Christ?
3. What is the difference between a law-based mindset vs a grace-based mindset?
4. Do you sometimes struggle with guilt or pressure to perform spiritually? Why is this a struggle? How can we combat this mindset?
5. Paul talks about two different fruits in v.4 and v.5...What are they? Give some examples of what these two fruits might look like in our world today?
6. How does knowing we have the Holy Spirit with us encourage us to live godly? What are some ways that we live more dependently on the Spirit?
7. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you want to live out? How can the group help you as you pursue that?