

Romans 7:1 - 12 *As the Gentile receives a new master the Jew receives a new husband - Christ*

7 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those

Paul speaks to Christian Jews

who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a

illustration vv 1-3

the law only rules over the living.

person as long as he lives? ² For the married woman is bound

by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband

death removes the power of law

dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

³ So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to

but the woman is not just free but free to be married again

another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her

husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an

adulteress though she is joined to another man.

⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the

Application v4

Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined

Christ's death ended the system of law

to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order

the believing Jew is now the Bride of Christ

our spiritual union

.. so that the Jew could be remarried to Christ

that we might bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were in the

A union which would produce fruit for God

flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law,

vv 5-6 The Need for a New Covenant

were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for

death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the Law,

through the cross (having died to that by which we were bound, so that we

the Christian's union with Christ produces divine service... through the Holy Spirit

serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

⁷ What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On

Paul, once again, plays the devil's advocate.

the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except

through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting

The law is not a sinful thing. Rather it is a divine means to expose our sin

if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." ⁸ But sin,

v. 8 The law exposed my sin

taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in

me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.

sin is only exposed as sin when confronted with God's law

Paul gives his personal testimony "I..."

⁹ I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the Paul's self evaluation

commandment came, sin became alive and I died; ¹⁰ and this when the truth came to my heart

commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in i.e. as Paul thought

death for me; ¹¹ for sin, taking an opportunity through the

the law produced death

commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹² So

because sin first deceived Paul into

self-righteousness and then condemned

then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and

him through his disobedience

righteous and good.

Thus the law is not sinful but it reflects the righteousness of God

Life Group Application Questions

1. In this text Paul gives his theological testimony.

What is yours? When did God show you your sin?

2. In what sense did sin ever deceive you into self-righteousness?