

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 7:1-5)

Main Point: The Christian life is a rescued life, rescued from having to be perfect, from having to keep God's law perfectly, having to always perform to get God's attention, having to always embrace our failure of never being good enough -always falling short of righteousness – Jesus changed ALL of that for us!

-In Chapter Seven, Paul reminds us **WHO** we have in Christ as our **SAVIOR**, our RESCUER; He is better than all the **LAW** which shows us our failure & demands works-righteousness; AND Jesus is our ultimate **LOVER**, husband, and friend (the greatest lover of our soul) – and WE get HIM as our LORD! -John 15:9 “[Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love.](#)”

-Paul continues his argument from chapter 6 that being alive **IN Christ**, means having DIED to the old self. Having died to the old self entails no longer being a slave to sin, to the former ways of thinking, feeling, and acting – where our old life (outside of Christ) meant we were slaves to our passions/ beholden to our sin nature/without a choice. Enslaved to sin/death. **-BUT now, IN Christ**, we are beholden to Jesus who has freed us from power of sin and the penalty of death.

*Paul moves on from the analogy of slavery, and he emphasizes his point about **NEW life in Christ (rescued life)** through a metaphor using the **LAW** and **MARRIAGE**.

READ Romans 7:1-5

[Or do you not know, brothers and sisters \(for I am speaking to those who know the Law\), that the Law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?](#) As Jews who grew up under the Mosaic law, Paul reminds them that the LAW of God (based on the moral nature of God) applies to every Jew – and defined for them How to live (holy unto God), and how to worship God (through Levitical sacrifice(s)), and how to treat each other civilly (fairly, honestly, graciously) **-Moral Law, Ceremonial/Levitical Law, and the Civil Law. These were binding laws as Jews.**

-AND as long as you were alive, the LAW of God applied to you. The person under the LAW was duty bound (obligated) to obey the Law, to be under its bondage to perform it perfectly.

=Heavy weight (actually impossible to keep the Law perfectly). Law crushed soul/**crushed joy**

-Remember, the LAW, like a mirror could only show you what needed to be fixed, couldn't fix it

-The LAW became the focus (keeping it perfectly), rather than focusing on the Law-Giver and by faith enjoying and worshipping God as the covenant relationship Giver - **RELATIONSHIP**

-Then Paul leaps into the analogy of marriage. That a lawful marriage between one man and one woman in faithful covenant was binding until one of the spouses died.

Vs. 2 [For the married woman is bound by law to her \[living\] husband as long as he is alive; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. ³ So then, if while her husband is alive she gives herself to another man \[lit. becomes another man's\], she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law\[to continue to be married to her deceased spouse\], so that she is not an adulteress if she gives herself to another man.](#)

-Simple enough analogy: Once you are married before God in covenant, you are bound to that spouse until one of you dies. Marriage is a lifelong commitment. This is and was always God's gracious plan toward us – to be in lifelong covenant relationships with our spouses.

-Using this analogy of being bound or loosed in covenant relationship, Paul makes his point:

Vs. 4 Therefore, my brothers *and sisters*, **you** also were put to death in regard to the Law - through the body of Christ- so that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

-Paul is comparing our lives being under the LAW (as both Jews/Gentiles) as in a Covenant relationship with God the Father. We are His covenant people and He is our covenant God.

-However, **the Law leads us to dismay**: (The Law shows us How holy God is; the Law shows us how to live to please Him and serve others; the Law shows us a mirror (where we need to change our life/but the Law is helpless to actually change us); the Law then condemns us for NOT being able to keep the Law – it shows us where we fail and that we have NO righteousness of our own. **That's the bad news!** Gal. 3:10 “**For all who rely on works of the law are under curse**”

-The Law confirms that we are guilty of breaking God's moral law and that we have **NO** capacity within ourselves to make it better. UNDER the Law, **we are guilty, unfulfilled, & hopeless**

-So, Paul reminds us that the LAW points toward both the Law-Giver and toward God's solution – the Perfect Law Keeper (Jesus Christ). Since Jesus kept & fulfilled the Law perfectly, we NOW have hope to die to our old self (life of sin) AND die to our own capacity for righteousness/our own “works-righteousness” trying to please God & perfectly keep the Law.

-Gal 2:19-20 **For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.** *Paul emphasizes that as Believers who have been **rescued** from sin & death THROUGH Jesus – that our death to our old life/self/enslaved to sin means that IN CHRIST, we now have NEW life, new hope, and new relationship in UNION w/ Christ who is our rescuer and lover – who gives us eternal life and hope to live each day with JOY everlasting!

Therefore, my brothers *and sisters*, **you also were put to death in regard to the Law -**through the body of Christ****

SO....**what did Jesus Christ do for us, the helpless, hopeless sinners already condemned to be enslaved to sin, depraved of God, and judged for death??**

1. Jesus perfectly kept **ALL** the **Law**. Jesus was sinless and perfect, and modeled how to be righteous and please God (Mt 5:17; Heb. 4:15; 1Pt. 2:22)
2. Jesus then died IN **OUR PLACE** as a righteous substitute for our very sin, being condemned to death and receiving the full penalty of death meant for us (1Cor. 15:3; 1 Pt. 2:24)
3. BUT Jesus being the perfect sacrifice, once for all sin, was **RAISED** mightily from the grave and conquered both **SIN** and **DEATH** through His victorious resurrection.
=Therefore, ALL who **HIDE** themselves IN Jesus (having UNION with Him), are now declared alive to God (made righteous/declared righteous) and In Him and through Him are NO longer bound to have to keep the ceremonial/levitical LAW -since we are IN Jesus and **He** alone is the perfect fulfillment of the LAW in all ways; *In Christ*, because of Christ, IN UNION with Christ ... we are declared justified, righteous, holy. **This is our new identity in Him!!**

Therefore, my brothers *and sisters*, **you also were put to death in regard to the Law -**through the body of Christ**** -So *In Christ*, we died to the OLD self (the sinful self, enslaved to sin), and we died to the LAW that bound us to a works-righteousness (trying to earn God's favor by good works). As Believers, we are no longer under that bondage or curse. **We've been rescued!**

Vs. 4: Therefore, my brothers/sisters, **you** also were put to death in regard to the Law -through the body of Christ- **Why? ...so that you might belong to another**, to Him [Jesus] who was raised from the dead, Paul, goes back to the first analogy of marriage. Since we died to our old life of sin (when we accepted Jesus as our Savior and were given NEW life), then we died to the power of the LAW over us. The LAW that condemned us no longer has power over us (no longer has jurisdiction over us). And since we are **no longer bound** to the Law, we are free to be married to Jesus (to become His Bride), with all the rights and blessings associated with being in a Saving faith covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!! **Is that true for you? Do you belong to Jesus this morning?**

-And what is the result of our death to sin, death to the Law, and being made ALIVE in Christ (In UNION) with Him, BELONGING to HIM as His Bride??? **Vs. 4:** “in order that we might bear fruit for God.” - What is this spiritual fruit that we will bear for God as we are HIS?

-God has created us and predestined us to live **fully** IN Him; to **glorify** Him, to **worship** Him, and to **enjoy** Him forever!

-God created us that we would be conformed (transformed) into the **IMAGE** of the Son, Jesus. **-Do any of your children look just like you or your spouse? Are they growing to look more like**

-Rom. 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters;

-Eph. 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before [a]Him.

-Your life's work is to become more like Jesus every day! To look more like Him daily.... **How is that coming along for you?? Are you growing spiritually? Growing in grace, love, mercy, discipleship, ...who is seeing the difference in you? Same as 5 yrs ago? in 5 yrs?**

Vs. 5. For while we were in the flesh [spiritually dead and enslaved to sin], the sinful passions, which were *brought to light* by the Law, were at work in the parts of our body to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, **so that we serve in newness of the Spirit** and not in oldness of the letter.

APPLICATION

-What does it mean for you to practically live/walk/abide/daily thrive as you SERVE in the newness of the Spirit? **-Do you have new eyes yet?** Seeing what God sees? **Ask Him for new eyes**

-Do you have a renewed mind yet? -Thinking God's thoughts & believing Truth for your life?

-Do you have a new heart yet, a soft heart, sensitive to the Truth of God, things God wants to change IN you and THROUGH you?

-Do you love what God loves yet? Being broken over your own sin, and pursuing holiness in all aspects of your life to please the Lord first and most every day of your life?

-Are you living victorious in your daily lives (defeating sin, being a light to others, finding joy?)

Arranged marriage, no choice, but were obedient. Bad match, unhappy, unfulfilled, unloved.

That spouse died. NOW you get to marry for love; get to enjoy a new life, new name, new identity as beloved and full of Joy...and you are so happy now -you can't help but to tell others!

-In Christ, you have put away an unloving lover [LAW] and now have embraced the Ultimate lover, the lover of our souls who has lavished us with grace (Eph. 1:8), blessing, power, renewal, hope...Jesus as the ultimate lover proved and demonstrated His love toward us through sacrificing Himself that we might have eternal life through His death