

#16 Walking by The Law or The Spirit?

Romans 7:1-6

The Struggle is With... (1) The **DEVIL** (2) The **WORLD**
(3) The **FLESH** (4) **SIN** (5) The **LAW**

FOUR USES OF THE LAW OF GOD

A Curb... A Mirror... A **PROD...** A **PORTRAIT**

A NEW WAY

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? ² 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. ³ Accordingly, 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.*

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. ⁵ 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.*

⁶ *But 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.*

Keeping the Rules? or Relying on the Spirit?

1. The Universal Axiom: Law is only binding on the **LIVING**, not the **DEAD** 7:1
2. A Common Illustration: The death of a spouse breaks the **MARRIAGE BOND**, releasing the surviving spouse to lawfully **REMARRY**. 7:2-3

3. The Spiritual Application: Believers united with Christ have died to The Law, and that opens up an entirely new path to their sanctification—fruitful “**MARRIAGE**” to Jesus and **THE NEW WAY** of the Spirit!

- A. Believers have “died to the law” and are “released from the law” freeing them to “remarry” and be bound to a new “husband”—Christ—and through our union with Him produce **FRUIT** for God! 7:4
- B. In our pre-Christ days when we were bound to the law, it had the effect of stirring up sinful desires, which yielded **BAD FRUIT**. 7:5
- C. The One who freed us from the Law then bound us to Himself, so we now serve a new master, we submit to a new “husband”... but now with a new power source: the indwelling **HOLY SPIRIT**. 7:6
- D. Being freed from the law was never meant to increase sinning; it was meant to increase **LOVE**, the fruit of a Spirit-filled life—“the new way of the Spirit.” 7:5-6

Galatians 3:2 *Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

“The law could not justify us before God, and it doesn’t have the power to sanctify us either.”

Take The New Way!