

Married To Another

Part 2 Romans Chapter Seven

Romans 7:1-4

*Or do you not know [are you ignorant] brethren (for I speak to those who know **the law**), that **the law** has dominion [lords it over] over a man as long as he lives? ² For the woman who has a husband is bound by **the law** to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from **the law** of her husband. ³ So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from **that law**, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. ⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead **to the law** through the body of Christ, that **you may be married to another**—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.*

MARRIED TO THE LAW

*In a small Jewish village there lived a tall, handsome man who was extremely intelligent and hugely successful. He was a model citizen in the village and many people came to him to ask advice on what was right and what was wrong. **SLIDE***

He seemed to be uniquely blessed by God. He had a perfect relationship with his parents ... He honoured only one God, Yahweh ... was single eyed, strong and uncompromising ... he always kept the Sabbath day holy ... never stole and always told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

The young men wanted to be like him and the young women wanted to be with him.

Then one day, he met a young lady** who admired his standards and success. **SLIDE

They were eventually married, and everyone thought, just as this man was a model citizen that these two would make the perfect marriage.

However, as the days drew on, this young lady looked more and more miserable. Her friends asked her what was wrong and she poured out her broken heart.

*She said, 'I am so unhappy. This man is so demanding. He expects everything to be done perfectly perfect and if I fail to do something that is not up to his standard he scowls at me and condemns me. **SLIDE***

'The other day, I spilled the salt. He once again sternly rebuked me telling me I should have concentrated more. He made me sweep it up and told me that I had to pay for the every last grain that was lost.

'He judges everything I do ... and now writes all my failures on paper and pins them all over the house – things that I fail at and need to try harder to get right. "Clean under the cupboards," "make sure you wash and dry all my clothes by the time I get home", "always have the food on the table just before I walk in the door", "make sure you comb your hair".

'He is intolerant ... unforgiving and unaffectionate and I'm now bound to him for the rest of my life.'

**THIS IS BEING MARRIED TO THE LAW AND WE ALL SUFFER FROM ITS
UNACHIEVABLE DEMANDS AS LONG AS WE LIVE.**

NB: MARRIAGES IN ISRAEL AT THE TIME WERE OFTEN PRE-ARRANGED (as they still are in the Middle East)

MARRIAGE IS (1) AN EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

(2) A PERSONAL COMMITMENT

(3) A LEGAL CONTRACT

We in the western world start with the EMOTIONAL CONNECTION and work thru to the LEGAL CONTRACT ... But here ... **IT IS ALL ABOUT THE LEGAL CONTRACT.**

OUR TEXT TELLS US BEFORE WE WERE LEGALLY MARRIED TO JESUS OUR RISEN LORD, **WE WERE LEGALLY MARRIED TO THE LAW.**

SLIDE WE WERE TRAPPED IN **AN UNHEALTHY MARRIAGE** WHETHER WE KNEW IT OR NOT. AND THE ONLY WAY OF ESCAPE WAS **TO DIE. THERE IS NO DIVORCE.**

Romans 7:1 (Paraphrased) **SLIDE**

*Do you not know brethren that the law lords it **over all people who live on this planet?** Everyone is subject to the rigors and condemnation of the law **whether they know it or not.***

You might not have read the Ten Commandments ... most of us can't recite them. But WE KNOW THEM INTERNALLY ... WE KNOW THEM INTRINSICALLY **THROUGH OUR CONSCIENCE.**

Romans 2:15 **SLIDE**

*[The Gentiles] show the work of the law **written in their heart, their conscience also bearing witness,** and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.*

WE LIVE WITH A NAGGING SENSE OF DISSAPPROVAL ... REJECTION ...

Never quite 'making the mark'!

I watch British Masterchef and I hear people bring their attempt at creating a wining plate of food only to hear FROM THE JUDGE, 'I'M SORRY, **THIS IS JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH.**'

When we succeed our conscience is alleviated ... We feel a great sense of **momentary** satisfaction. When we feel like we've done our day's work we get a sense of accomplishment ... BUT TOMORROW IT STARTS AGAIN. THERE'S ALWAYS MORE AND WE NEVER EVER COME TO THE END OF TRYING TO MEET THE LAW'S DEMANDS.

SLIDE YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CANNOT HIDE. THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE LAW.

Spend all your time waiting ... for that second chance ... for a break that would make it okay ...

There's always some reason ... to feel not good enough.

And it's hard, at the end of the day. (Sarah McLaughlin ... 'Angel')

DISFAVOUR

I remember feeling like this as I watched a friend who was also called into ministry. His father was in ministry ... He didn't seem to have the hang-ups I had ... He seemed blessed and I felt like a second rate citizen ... the poor cousin ... passed over ... THANK GOD FOR HIS GRACE!

The feeling of not being good enough ... not being highly favoured by God is from THE LAW!
– 'You are NOT complying to the standards of THE LAW as someone else is and you are inferior.'

SO WHAT IS THIS LAW?

THIS IS THE LAW FROM GOD – A SUMMARY OF THE MORAL STANDARDS OF GOD.
PAUL SAYS IT IS 'GLORIOUS'. (2 Corinthians 3:7)

THE LAW HAS ULTIMATE AUTHORITY ... IT CANNOT BE OVERCOME!

THERE IS NO GREATER AUTHORITY IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE THAN THE LAW OF GOD. GOD CANNOT GO AGAINST HIS LAW.

HOW DID THE LAW RELEASE US FROM THE LAW?

You say, 'Hang on a minute, In Romans 8:2 we read ... '

The Law of The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the Law of sin and death.

SURELY THIS MEANS THIS LAW IS GREATER THAN THE LAW OF MOSES? SURELY THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE OVERCAME THE LAW OF MOSES. NO IT DIDN'T!!!!

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS THAT HAS NOW MADE US FREE FROM ALL OTHER LAWS **ONLY OCCURRED BECAUSE THE LAW OF MOSES DECREED IT ITSELF!**

SLIDE THE LAW'S OWN LAW BOUND MAN AND THE LAW'S OWN LAW SET MAN FREE!

THE LAW WAS NEVER DEFEATED AS THOUGH THERE WAS A BATTLE ... THE LAW WAS SATISFIED WITHOUT COMPROMISE ... IT WAS FULFILLED. JESUS SAID ...

Matthew 5:17 **SLIDE**

*Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil.¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one [iota / yod] or one [small stroke of a letter] will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

THE ONLY WAY WE COULD ENTER INTO 'THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS' ... WAS TO USE THE LAW ITSELF ... AND ... **THE LAW HAD A CLAUSE ...**

IT WAS THE CLAUSE OF DEATH

THE LAW'S OWN LAW STATED, 'THE ONLY WAY TO PAY FOR YOUR 'SPILT SALT' AND GET OUT OF THIS "UNHEALTHY MARRIAGE" IS FOR YOU TO DIE. THEN I WILL BE SATISFIED.'

Romans 7:2 paraphrased **SLIDE**

For just as the wife is released from the law of her husband if he dies ... so she will also be released from the law if she dies. - Because DEATH OF EITHER PARTY CANCELS ANY OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY EITHER PERSON HAS HAD TO THE OTHER.

Their debt is cleared ... Their sentence is served ... Their guilt is expunged ... THEY ARE JUSTIFIED.

Verse 3 *So if her husband dies [or she dies] she is free from that binding law of obligation to anyone.*

STORY ...

*So here is this young lady ... living all her life under constant demand ... under fear ... under condemnation (there is no escape). It's a horrible sentence, one in which she looks forward to death to get out. **BUT SOMEBODY DIED FOR HER AND FOR YOU.***

HERE COMES OUR HERO ...

Galatians 4:4 **SLIDE**

*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born [made] of a woman, **born under the law**⁵ to redeem **those who were under the law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

RUTH / BOAZ AND THE CLOSER RELATIVE ... Ruth chapter 4.

THE LAW (THE CLOSER RELATIVE) COULD NOT REDEEM US ... IT TOOK OUR BOAZ / JESUS TO DO THAT.

NB: Boaz had to buy back what Ruth's father-in-law had sold ... HE HAD TO REDEEM IT. He had to pay the debt that was owed.

Colossians 2:14 NIV **SLIDE**

*Having cancelled (**obliterated**) the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.*

WHAT WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS?

*The handwritten legal debt, a penalty owed... **THE LAW DEMANDED IT.***

IT WAS THE LAW THAT PUT JESUS TO DEATH.

THIS DEATH NOW LEGALLY FREES US FROM THE LAW IN 2 WAYS

1. THE CONCLUSION OF THE LAW ... **JUSTIFICATION**
2. THE CONTINUATION OF THE LAW ... **SANCTIFICATION**

THE END OF THE STORY

Well the story of the unhappy marriage continues.

Eventually this oppressed woman's first husband dies ...

*Finally she is released from the tyranny of **HIS LAW** because the clause of 'DEATH' declared her to be FREE. (Remember it was us who died in Christ ... not the law.)*

Then soon after, she met another man and they were married.

SLIDE *NOW THIS MAN JUST LOVED HER. He saw no fault in her. He praised her daily.*

(We read in the Song of Songs, the bridegroom tells her 5 times 'You are altogether fair my love'). Finally this dear lady's life was fulfilled ...

NOW 3 THINGS HAPPEN

1. THAT OLD CONDITIONING CONTINUES TO OPPRESS

*One day, this dear lady spills the salt. Immediately she panics ... starts shaking and kneels down to sweep it up saying, 'Oh my lord, I am so sorry ... I'll pay for what I've spilled ... ' But the new husband dives down to the floor where she is ... grabs her hands ... saying, Dearest One, this is no longer an issue ... **The salt is paid for** and you no longer need to fear condemnation ... I will never not love you and never condemn you.*

FOR US TO START TO FEEL GUILT AND CONDEMNATION AGAIN NOW WE ARE MARRIED TO ANOTHER HUSBAND IS TO BE DISLOYAL TO OUR NEW HUSBAND, JESUS CHRIST
Martin Lloyd Jones says, 'As married to Christ, you must never allow yourself to feel as you felt when you were "under the Law" ... when you were married to the Law.'
ARE YOU STILL AFRAID OF THE LAW? **This is like giving your old husband power over you when you are now married to Christ.** THIS IS DISLOYAL TO YOUR NEW HUSBAND.
DO YOU STILL FEEL CONDEMNED? **This is bringing yourself back under the control of your former husband.** THIS IS DISLOYAL TO YOUR NEW HUSBAND.

RETRAIN YOUR CONSCIENCE

The Bible talks about a weak conscience (1 Corinthians 8:10). **A weak conscience is a conscience that is still affected by the Law and not by Grace.**

OUR CONSCIENCE NOW NEEDS TO BE RETRAINED.

Jiminy Cricket's idea, 'Always let your conscience be your guide', is flawed.

IT IS NOT SPIRITUAL TO FEEL GUILTY OR TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE LAW ANY MORE
IT IS DISLOYAL TO YOUR NEW HUSBAND – CHRIST JESUS.

WE MUST BEGIN TO ADOPT A COMPLETELY NEW WAY OF THINKING AND FEELING.

I am now married to the Lord Jesus Christ. I take my position with Him, to be guided by Him ... to be instructed by Him. I must forget my former husband.

2. YOU FIND YOU INTRINSICALLY KEEP THE LAW

When our young lady finally, fully abandoned to her new husband ... she started to forget her old husband. She became happier and happier and went about her daily tasks singing as she swept and cooked etc. Then one day as she was going about her daily tasks, she found all the old rules her former husband had pinned around the house regarding what she wasn't doing right. As she read them she was amazed that without even thinking about the Rules / Law ... she was actually doing everything he'd written ... now in joy.

3. YOU ORGANICALLY PRODUCE FRUIT TO GOD

(Romans 7:4) **SLIDE**

My brethren, you also have become dead to the law ... that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

OBED (means WORSHIP) was naturally born to Ruth and Boaz. He became the grandfather of David.