

**The School of Biblical Law**  
Introduction to Law and Grace  
Lesson Thirty Nine: “Dead to the Law”

Much confusion as to the believers continuing obligation to the Law has been based upon a misreading of Romans 7:1-6. Verbiage such as “ye are become dead to the law” (verse 4) and “ye are delivered from the law” (verse 6), if read through an antinomian presupposition, could appear to support a position for the invalidation of the law in the New Covenant era. Therefore, careful exegesis is necessary to discover the meaning of the words of the Apostle Paul. Romans 7:1-6 reads:

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. (KJV)

1. Dissolution of the former marriage:

Initially, we must understand the following persons in the analogy: the woman is the individual/the believer; the first husband is the man in Adam; the second husband is the new man in Christ.

Next, we must discover who or what died: The man in Adam? The Law?

Romans, chapter 6, has already laid an argument of the death of the man in Adam. (Especially note verses 9, 14, 18, and 22)

- a. Have Dominion (Strong’s #2961 – *kyrieuo*) – lordship, rulership
- b. Free (Strong’s #1659 – *eleuthero* – verb) – to liberate, to make free
- c. Servants (Strong’s #1401 – *doulos*) – slave, bondman, bring into subjection or subservience

2. The new marriage:

The believer is not married to the old nature and to Christ at the same time; but rather through the death of the old man, the believer is delivered from the dominion of the sin nature and the death sentence and free to be “married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (verse 4).

Christ died to save man from sin and death, not to save man from the law.

3. Fruit of both marriages:

In the first marriage, the law could only condemn and sentence and the fruit was unto death

In the last marriage, the believer in Christ is freed from death to serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of the letter. (Letter is not a synonym for law but rather refers to use of *gramma*, a written script, as an external code rather than internalized and living law. – I Cor.3:6)

Because we are in Christ, we have fruit unto holiness (6:22), fruit unto righteousness (6:13, 16), and fruit unto God (7:4)

“Every man born of Adam is sentenced to death by the law. This is the law’s claim on him; his person is under a death penalty. With Christ as our vicarious sacrifice and substitute, we are dead to the law, but the law is not dead. At the same time, as members of the new humanity of Christ, we are legally alive in Christ to the law, now our way of life, not a sentence against us.” (Rushdoony, *Romans & Galatians*, pg.105)