

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

#### What about the Law?

- the purpose of the Law was to imprison humanity under sin as a stage in God's redemptive plan (cf. Gal. 3:21-22)
- the Law effects God's wrath/condemnation in preparation for His grace in Christ

"Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:19-20)

"For the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there trespass." (Romans 4:15)

"The Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more," (Romans 5:20)

"For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace."

(Romans 6:14)

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Freedom from sin's rule has its basis  
in freedom from the Law

#### Romans 7:1-25

##### ➤ Two Main Points about the Law:

1. Bondage to the Law must be severed in order to be joined to Christ (7:1-6)
2. The origin and nature of the Law – it is from God but is the tool of sin to imprison in death (7:7-25)

Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?

<sup>2</sup>For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

<sup>3</sup>So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to 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.

<sup>4</sup>Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

<sup>5</sup> For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

## Freed from the Law

### 1. The Principle

- the law rules over a person as long as he lives

## Freed from the Law

### 2. The Illustration (marriage)

- in marriage the wife is released from the law relating to her husband if he dies, and is therefore free to marry another man
- *main point* – death severs relationship to the Law (and enables one to enter a new relationship)

## Freed from the Law

### 3. The Application

- inference: *like the woman, you have through a death severed your bondage to the law and been enabled to be joined to another*

## Freed from the Law

### 3. The Application

- in the death of Christ, we were released from the binding authority of the Law as a whole
- this release from the Law was so that we might be joined to the risen Christ Jesus
- this relationship with Christ enables us to produce the character and actions that glorify God

<sup>19</sup> For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

(Galatians 2:19-20)