

## Now we are Married to Christ

### Romans 7:1-6

#### Introduction

1. Every human being is sinful (Rom.1:18-3:20)
2. Because of our sin, we all stand condemned for our rebellion against God (Rom.1:32; 2:1-3,5-6,12; 3:9-20)
3. The whole of the Bible speaks of the “Good News”—God’s “Good news”; the only way whereby we might be saved; and that is through faith in God’s gracious provision of a Substitute for our sin who is Jesus.  
Jesus died as the One and only substitute; the One and only who is able to satisfy the absolute justice of God on our behalf; thereby enabling our sin to be forgiven justly (Rom.3:21-4:25)
4. Having been saved (i.e. fully, completely, eternally), the Christian embarks on a life of sanctification (being set apart by God for God—for a life of holiness) (Rom.5:1-8:39)

#### 1. The principle (7:1)

##### 1. The Law (7:1)

1. “The law” refers to the law of Moses
2. Notice the emphasis on the law in 7:1-6
3. The nature of the law
4. The purpose of the law
  1. The law makes us conscious of sin (Rom.3:20)
  2. All without exception are deemed sinful by God (3:19,23)
  3. The consequence of our sin is wrath (4:15)
  4. Eternal death reigned as a result of sin and the law (5:21)
  5. The law was never meant to be viewed as a means of salvation (3:20)

##### 2. To whom is Paul speaking? (7:1)

##### 3. What is Paul seeking to demonstrate? (7:1b)

#### 2. The principle illustrated (7:2-3)

##### 1. The nature of the illustration (7:2-3)

##### 2. The illustration

1. A married woman is legally bound to her husband as long as he is alive (7:2)
2. Should the husband die (7:2)
3. The woman is now legally free to marry again

#### 3. The principle applied to the Christian (7:4-6)

##### 1. The status of the Christian (7:4a)

1. Christians are like the wife in the story (7:4)

2. Christians are legitimately married to Christ (7:4)
3. The nature of our marriage to Christ (7:4)
  1. It is an eternal marriage—a marriage, “to the One who has been (ESV) raised from the dead”
  2. It is a marriage which will overwhelm us in a new world without equal (paradise—the thief on the cross—“today you will be with me in paradise”)
  3. It is a marriage to One who is without equal—Jesus, the very Son of God (God Himself—the second Person of the Trinity)
  
2. How was this new status accomplished? (7:4-6)
  1. A “divine passive” (7:4)
    1. This denies all human effort in accomplishing salvation (“you also were made to die” NASB)
    2. It is a work accomplished by God and through God’s initiative (purposed by God alone)
  
  2. The means (7:4,6)
    1. An historical event (7:4)
    2. Jesus the Representative of believers (Our being “in Him”) (7:4,6; Eph.2:15)
      1. Jesus our Representative, died on the cross to pay the full penalty for our sin (Rom.6:10; Heb.7:27; 9:28; 10:12)
      2. Jesus our Representative and Groom, fully obeyed the law (fulfilled the requirements of the law) on our behalf (7:4,6)
  
3. The necessary consequence of this new status in Christ
  1. Note God’s intentional and necessary purpose in saving us (7:4)
  
  2. The fruit of our first marriage to the law, was marked by disobedience (7:5)
    1. The meaning of “flesh” (7:5)
    2. The law’s impact on the “flesh” (7:5)
    3. The consequence of the law’s impact on the flesh: Death (7:5)
  
  3. The fruit of the second marriage to Christ is marked by holiness (7:4,6)
  
- Two questions:
  1. What is the nature of the fruit? (7:4)
  2. What does it mean, to “serve in the new way of the Spirit”? (7:6)

## Conclusion