

The Believer's Relation to the Law, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 7.
- B. The fourth result of salvation is freedom from law.

II. Paul takes great pains to show that we are not under the law.

- A. The Jews could not tolerate anyone who rejected the value of the law in one's life.
- B. Paul was not throwing out God's standards at all.
- C. Paul presents three attitudes towards the law.

II. Legalist.

- A. This is one who is in bondage to the law.
- B. The legalist puts himself under law. He knows no joy and freedom.
- C. The law is only good as long as a man is alive. A believer is dead to the law because he has died in Christ. (Romans 6)
- D. The law proscribed death and that was paid in Christ.
- E. We are not free for freedom's sake. We gain a new master.
- F. A lawless Christian is an unproductive, worthless Christian. (1 Corinthians 5, Ephesians 2:10)
- G. We are born in flesh, which leads to sin, which leads to sin.
- H. We are delivered from the law, which turns us loose to serve God in God's standards. However, we do not serve in the letter of the law. We serve in the spirit of the law.
- I. We serve God out of the pressure of love. (1 John 2)
- J. The law does not create sin--it provokes it, reveals it and condemns it.
- K. Sin deceives and kills a person, not the law. We should not blame the law. We should blame ourselves.

III. Libertine.

- A. The libertine rejects law.
- B. The law is not the problem, however.

IV. Law abiding believer.

A. This one is balanced.

B. He keeps the law out of love.

Application Questions:

1. The speaker argues that a Christian can fall into all three attitudes towards the law. When have you experienced these different attitudes?

2. What does a healthy relationship to the law look like for the Christian? Explain.

3. Why is it important to understand that a Christian is dead to the law?
