

Romans 7 part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 7.

B. At any given moment, a Christian is either walking in the Spirit or walking in the flesh.

C. Although the old man is dead, he is still active. The “old man” is merely rendered useless to God.

D. The old life is not only sinful, but it is worthless, so believers must stop trying to do something for Christ and let Him do something through him.

II. The Ten Commandments is no longer useful for living the Christian life.

A. An illustration.

1. The woman is helpless to marry another man until her husband dies.

2. We who believe in Jesus Christ are the woman. The old self is what died.

3. When we tried to be good, we only proved ourselves hypocrites because we were not essentially good.

4. Christ took our sin nature upon Him and condemned it on the cross. Jesus became our “old husband,” and when He died our old self died. (II Corinthians 5:21)

5. We have also been freed from the law that bound us to the old husband, the old self.

6. Christ has come to be our true self.

7. A non-believer who tries to be good and a Christian who tries to be bad are hypocrites because they are not being true to their being.

B. An explanation.

1. Without Christ, man can do nothing.

2. If we learn to depend upon Christ, we can count on Him to do all that needs to be done.

3. Christ fulfilled the law through love.

C. An application.

1. The purpose for the law was revealing the source of sin.

2. Conscience is no safe guide at all—the law is needed to reveal sin.

3. The Commandments were not given to keep men from sinning but to make men realize that they were sinning.

4. The law was made for the ungodly. (I Timothy 1)

Application questions:

1. How does the illustration of the married woman help to illustrate a person's relationship to his old life?

2. What is the purpose of the law in Christian teaching?

3. How would you respond to someone who says that the law is necessary to keep order? Explain.
