

Dead to the Law

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 7.

B. The law of God is good. (Psalm 19:7; 119:12, 16, 77, 97, 136, 142, 165, 174; Deuteronomy 27:26; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Deuteronomy 6:1, Isaiah 42:31, Exodus 18:16)

C. The Jews developed a theology that men could be right before God through the exercise of the law. (John 9:28)

D. The law is exulted throughout Scripture. (Acts 21:20, Philippians 3, Hebrews 2:2, Acts 7:53, 7:38, Matthew 5:17-18, I Timothy 1:8)

E. Sin is a violation of the law. (I John 3:4)

F. The law does not create righteousness, it increases it. (Romans 3:31, 5:20, 6:14)

G. Paul says that believers are not under the law but under grace. Romans 7 is the explanation of this.

H. Salvation has a tremendous effect--it transforms people.

II. The axiom: the law remains in effect over a person only as long as he lives.

III. The analogy: marriage. (I Corinthians 7:39)

IV. The application: we have gone through a real spiritual death to the law. (Romans 6:3)

A. Before Christ, all that the law could do was condemn a person. It was not redemptive.

B. The believer was in bondage to the law before Christ.

C. Christ took the penalty of the law on Himself. (II Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13, 2:19-20, Ephesians 5, II Corinthians 11)

D. Salvation is a total experience--we are free from trying to earn our salvation.

E. The purpose of our salvation is to bear fruit for God. (Galatians 5:22-23, Hebrews 13, Philippians 4)

F. Flesh refers to unredeemed humanness in the moral sense. The Christian is no longer "in the flesh"--he no longer has to yield to it. (John 1:14, I John 4:2, Galatians 5, Ephesians 4, Romans 8:4)

1. Flesh generates sinful impulses.
2. These impulses come by the law. The law reveals evil, and it excites evil because people want to do what they are forbidden to do.
3. Believers have no legal liability anymore. (Galatians 3:13, Romans 6)
4. We are discharged from the law for a new kind of service. Now that the believer is no longer under the law, he is able to complete it by the power of the Spirit.

V. The affirmation.

Application questions:

1. How would you explain the believer's relationship to the law?

2. How would you respond to a believer who says that one can sin and not worry about the consequences since the Christian is not under law?

3. What does it mean to be in the flesh? Why is a Christian no longer in the flesh?
