



Born To Serve God In Newness of Spirit

“But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter” (Romans 7:6).

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“Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? 2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. 4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. 6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter” (Romans 7:1-6).

Introduction

You have probably heard the slogan “I am born to serve”. To the Christian this has greater application to their new life experience in Christ — i.e. born again to serve God in newness of Spirit. Knowledge of, and embracing this fact, gives purpose and meaning to life, and enables one to make a difference in life.

Using illustration from marriage relationship, the Apostle Paul explains a profound spiritual reality about the relationship between the Christian and God, noting particularly that our relationship to God has changed through Jesus Christ. Romans 7:1–6 shows how the believer is released from the old bondage of sin and the law in order to live a new life with Christ.

This message speaks not only to Christians, but also to those who have not yet believed. The central truth is that **God frees people from the bondage of sin so that they may belong to Christ and live fruitful lives for Him.** We will consider this study in five parts:

- 1) The Law Has Authority Over Humanity
- 2) Death Changes Our Relationship to the Law
- 3) Believers Are Joined to Christ for a Purpose
- 4) Life in the Flesh Produces Death
- 5) The New Life Manifests In Serving God in the Spirit

1. The Law Has Authority Over Humanity

Paul begins with a principle that the law governs a person while they are alive - “The law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth.” (Romans 7:1). The law of God reveals His holy standard. It shows us what righteousness looks like and exposes sin, as also confirmed in these scriptures:

- “By the law is the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)
- “The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.” (Romans 7:12)
- “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

Today, many people think they are good enough for God. But the law reveals the truth about our condition. Like a mirror, it does not clean the dirt; it only shows it. Imagine a medical test that re-



veals a serious illness. The test itself cannot cure the disease—it simply reveals the problem. In the same way, God’s law exposes sin but cannot save us from it. This truth can be applied as follows to:

- Unbelievers: The law shows the need for salvation.
- Believers: The law reminds us of God’s holiness and our dependence on grace.

2. Death Changes Our Relationship to the Law

Paul uses marriage as an illustration that death ends the legal bond, by stating that - “If the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband” (Romans 7:2). He then explains that believers have died to the law through Christ - “Ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ” (Romans 7:4). When Jesus died, He bore the penalty of sin. Those who trust in Him are counted as having died with Him, as shown in these scriptures:

- “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live” (Galatians 2:20).
- “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him” (Romans 6:6).
- “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law” (Galatians 3:13).

Today, many people attempt to live under two systems at once by trying to earn God’s favour while also claiming grace. Paul teaches that salvation is not achieved by human effort but by union with Christ. For example, a prisoner cannot free himself by obeying prison rules perfectly. Freedom comes only when the sentence is fully paid. Christ has paid the penalty in such a way that:

- Salvation is not about religious performance.
- Our hope rests entirely in the finished work of Christ.

3. Believers Are Joined to Christ for a Purpose

Paul says believers are now “married to another” - “That ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4). So, salvation is not merely escape from judgement—it is entering into a living relationship with Christ as confirmed in these scriptures:

- “I am the vine, ye are the branches” (John 15:5).
- “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit” (John 15:8).
- “Created in Christ Jesus unto good works” (Ephesians 2:10).

For us today, God’s intention is still transformation. A genuine relationship with Christ produces spiritual fruit: love, righteousness, and obedience. As an illustration, a healthy tree naturally bears fruit because it is alive. Likewise, when someone is truly united with Christ, their life begins to change. In application:

- Believers should examine the fruit of their lives.
- Unbelievers should recognise that true change comes from Christ, not self-improvement alone.

4. Life in the Flesh Produces Death

Paul reminds us of our former condition - “For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death” (Romans 7:5). This implies that before salvation, human nature is dominated by sin, as supported by these scriptures:

- “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
- “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).



•“The heart is deceitful above all things” (Jeremiah 17:9).

In contemporary times, sin still promises freedom but produces bondage and destruction. This is evident in broken lives, relationships, and societies. Sin can be like a trap disguised as opportunity—easy to enter but difficult to escape. In the light of this, we need to:

- Recognise the seriousness of sin.
- Turn to Christ, who alone delivers from its power.

5. The New Life Manifests In Serving God in the Spirit

Paul concludes with a powerful contrast— “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter” (Romans 7:6). Christian life is not merely external obedience; it is inward transformation by the Holy Spirit as confirmed in these scriptures:

- “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).
- “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

It is important to remember that religion without spiritual renewal becomes empty routine. God desires hearts changed by His Spirit. As an illustration, there is a difference between a machine performing tasks and a living person acting out of love. The Christian life is not mechanical duty but Spirit-empowered devotion. We need to apply this to:

- Serve God from a renewed heart.
- Depend daily on the Holy Spirit.

Today, The Key Take Aways From This Message for Everyone are:

- 1) **God’s law reveals our true condition** - No one can meet God’s standard on their own.
- 2) **Jesus Christ provides the only way to freedom.** Through His death and resurrection we are released from condemnation.
- 3) **Salvation leads to a transformed life.** Believers are called to bear fruit for God.
- 4) **Sin leads to death, but Christ leads to life.**
- 5) **True Christianity is life in the Spirit, not mere religion.**

In Conclusion

Romans 7:1–6 calls us to understand what Christ has done. We are not meant to live under the burden of sin and condemnation. Through Jesus Christ, God offers freedom, new life, and a restored relationship with Him.

The invitation of Scripture remains clear: **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”** (Matthew 11:28).

The promise in the scripture remains that “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). Why continue in bondage when freedom is offered freely?

May we respond by trusting Christ, living in His grace, and bringing forth fruit unto God. This is what it means to be born to serve God in newness of Spirit.