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Dead to the Law

Romans 7:1-6 The believer and the Law. (6:14)

Romans 6 – freedom from sin

- v.11 – dead to sin (not enough!)

Romans 7 – freedom from the Law

If we are not fully released from the Law, we can never fully know freedom from sin!

- v.1 – What is “the law?”
 1. A standard of conduct, or behavior, which is demanded of us. (God requires perfection of us)
 2. The purpose of “the law” was to condemn failure.
 3. The effect of “the law” is to discourage, to produce a sense of defeat.
- The law was not given to keep, but to prove our utter weakness and to show us we need Another. (5:20)

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“God knows who I am; He knows that from head to foot I am full of sin; He knows that I am weakness incarnate; that I can do nothing. The trouble is that I do not know it... God must bring us all to the place where we see that we are utterly weak and helpless. While we say so, we do not wholly believe it, and God has to do something to convince us of the fact. Had it not been for the Law, we should never have known how weak we are.”

(Nee)

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“...the law was not given in the expectation that we would keep it. It was given in the full knowledge that we would break it; and when we have broken it so completely as to be convinced of our utter need, then the Law has served its purpose.”

(Nee)

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Romans 7:1-6 The believer and the Law.

- Is the believer under the Law?
 - No, we're dead to the Law
- vv.2-3 Four main players in Paul's analogy:
 1. *Married woman* – humanity
 2. *First husband* – old Adamic sin-nature (Christ crucified)
 3. *Law* – marital covenant between woman (pre-Christian) and the old sin-nature
 4. *Second husband* – Jesus (new nature of the Spirit—Christ risen)

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- vv.4-6 Because we died with Christ, we have been released (delivered) from the Law!

Four proofs that we are still under the Law:

1. *We are proud of our achievements.*
 - A diversion to keep people from looking at our failures
2. *We are critical of others.*
 - We are usually most critical of others precisely in those areas where we are ourselves most at fault.
3. *We are reluctant to admit our own failures.*
4. *We suffer from depression, discouragement, and defeat.*
 - Sin should be a constant reminder that I am desperately in need of Another and cannot overcome on my own!

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- Is it important for me to live as one dead to the Law? (v.3)
- Are you living as though you are dead to the Law?
 - If we are looking for or finding comfort in regulations and detailed instructions to set us free from certain sins, then we are still living under the Law.
 - If you are expecting anything good to come from you, then you are still living under the Law.
 - Paul writes to us as one who understands and believes that he is dead to the Law – 2 Cor. 2:5!
- What is the proof of one truly living as dead to the Law? – v.4 – fruit!

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Dead to the Law

"We are tied to Jesus. His life is now ours, and we are acting according to our true nature... We are married to a new husband. And because we share his life and power, we not only are able to be what he is, but we are also free from any condemnation or failure in our struggle along the way. We don't always act right, but the law doesn't condemn us. The law's purpose was to condemn, and we can't be condemned anymore ... We have a new identity. No longer bound to our failures, we can admit them and forget them. We don't have to have them clinging to us; we no longer have to believe that God is unhappy with us because we don't always live exactly right. He has made provision for this. It is not a fraud when we go back to God again and again, and accept forgiveness from his hand.."

(Stedman)