

ROMANS
2026
June 7, 2026

V. Living by Grace in a Sinful World
Part 2: 7:1-25 “The Struggle is Real”

Rom 6:1-8:39

1. An illustration from marriage: Dead to the law, alive with Christ

7:1-6

- a. If one’s mate dies, they are released from the marriage bond.**
- b. So also, through Christ we died to the law that we might belong to Him and bear fruit to God** (Eph 2:8-10).
 - Before we were saved, we bore fruit for death. The law revealed our sin.
 - But now, by dying to the law, we serve in the new way of the Spirit, not in the old way of the written code. (Gal 2:19; Eph 2:15)

2. What is the ministry of the law?

7:8-21

- a. The law is not sinful, nor does it promote sin; its holiness reveals our sin.**
 - The reaction of our sinful nature to God’s law reveals our bondage to sin and need of saving from our sin. *When I do a load of white laundry, I start filling the machine and add bleach before I add soap and load the clothes. When I add the soap it goes into the clear water and...the water turns brownish as the soap is added. In a way it reveals that bleach is already in the drum. In a similar way when our sinful nature comes into contact with God’s law we see our sinfulness. That is the law’s purpose.* (e.g, Rom 3:20)
 - That reaction to the law’s commands results in death. (Rom 6:23)
 - The law is holy and we cannot satisfy its demands. (Act 13:38-39; Gal 3:10-11)
 - * Seeking to be justified through the law can only condemn us. (Gal 3:10-14; Jas 2:10)
 - * It can and does reveal our spiritual poverty and need for redemption.
- b. The law is spiritual, but we are not.**
 - People are sold as slaves to *(under the influence of)* sin. (Prv 20:9; 1 Jhn 1:8)
 - Go ahead, try — we cannot satisfy the law’s demands. (See Act 15:10; Rom 8:3)
 - Nothing good lives in our sinful nature (“*flesh*”) - Humanity is broken. (Psm 14:3; Eph 2:3)
 - We can want to do and be good, but that is 100% impossible (Unless we “lower the bar” to *look* like we are good - See Mtt 5:17-20; Isa 64:6; Php 3:8-9.

3. So what is the conclusion of this matter?

7:21-25

- a. We are trapped by our own sin and condemned by the law. This is *the* problem.**
 - Yet we see the beauty and excellence of God’s law/truth.
 - We are sinners by nature and choice, and prisoners (Gal 3:23)
- b. Thanks be to God for the ministry of Jesus!** (Act 10:43; 13:38-41; Rom 5:6; 1 Tim 2:5)

The law in and of itself cannot give life
Compare Jhn 5:39-40 with Gal 3:21