

WE ARE DEAD TO THE LAW **(Romans 7:1-6)**

I. The explanation (vs. 1).

- A. In expository preaching, there is no necessary order to the three aspects of it; you can do it however you desire.
- B. That being said, most choose to explain the text first.
- C. Paul explains the idea of a law being in force on a person only so long as he is living.
- D. Paul was writing to a mixed group ethnically speaking.
 - 1. There were those who were Jews who had converted, some of whom were the ones who probably brought the gospel to Rome.
 - 2. There were also Gentile converts in the congregations.
- E. Paul stated that he knew he was speaking to those that understood laws.
- F. What is said here is true of all laws.
 - 1. Whatever law is in force over us is such only as long as we are alive.
 - 2. There is no law over the dead.
- G. As long as a person is alive, the law exercises lordship over him.
 - 1. For us as Christians it is the law of Christ.
 - 2. As Americans it is the laws of the land.
- H. However, once we are dead, these laws will have no dominion over us.
- I. The same holds true of any law and especially in this text, the law of Moses.

II. The illustration (vs. 2-3).

- A. Paul took the time to illustrate his topic by pointing out the law of marriage.
- B. A wife is subject or under the headship of her husband as long as he is alive.
 - 1. God has placed the husband as the head of the wife.
 - 2. This is the law of marriage.
- C. A wife is bound to her husband until death parts them.
 - 1. As an aside, Paul does not mention the only other cause for an unbinding of the marriage law.
 - 2. Jesus gave this exception and it is adultery on the part of one of the parties involved in a marriage (Matthew 5:32; 19:9).
 - 3. Paul doesn't mention the exception here because it does not fit in with the point he is making that they are dead to the law of Moses, so there is no need to mention it.
- D. Once the husband dies, the wife no longer under his headship.
 - 1. There is no way to exercise dominion from the grave.
 - 2. He loses any and all power over her at death.
- E. However, if she leaves him while he lives and marries another, she is to be called an adulteress.
 - 1. Here we need to make application.
 - 2. God's law for marriage is one man and one woman for life until death parts them.

3. Again, Paul does not mention the exception here because it does not fit in with the point he is making.
4. Our society needs to hear this and this why our meeting in November where issues about MDR is so very timely and important.
5. God has always intended for husbands and wives to be joined together till the death of one or both of them.
6. Marriage is not to be entered into on a whim or with the idea that if it doesn't work out, we'll just divorce.

III. The application.

- A. Therefore means because of what we have just said.
- B. Paul now applies the teaching that he had been doing to them spiritually.
 1. They were made dead to the law by the body of Christ on the cross.
 2. Jesus nailed the old law to the cross, taking it out of the way.
 3. Spiritually speaking, they were married to another, the One who has been raised from the dead, Jesus.
 4. The reason for this is that we are to now bring forth fruit, good works, unto God.
- C. There is no longer anything tying them to the old law.
 1. It was completely removed, or put to death.
 2. Because of that death occurring, they were free to be married to Christ in order to bring forth good fruit to God.
 3. God had long compared His relationship to Israel with that of a husband and wife.
 - a. Their leaving Him was often described as spiritual adultery.
 - b. They committed adultery with all of the idols they had taken to worshipping.
 4. The first husband was now gone, the old law, and they were free to marry the second, Jesus.
- D. The Jews were subject to the Old Law simply by being born a Jew, thus the phrase in the flesh.
 1. The Old Law only revealed what sin was, it could not take it away.
 2. Thus, it worked to only bring forth fruit unto death.
 3. If they had stayed in the Old Law, which they were unable to perfectly keep, they would die in their sins.
- E. Thankfully, that didn't have to be the case.
 1. By Christ, they were delivered from the law that bound them to death.
 2. This allowed them, and us, to serve in newness of the spirit, or as 6:4 tells us, in the newness of life.
 3. It got us away from the old letter and the old way of life.