

Lesson 14 – Romans 7:1-6

The question to set the stage

1. The brethren know the Law (this is important because the illustration he will use comes from the law)
2. The brethren know how the Law works (this is important because in the illustration he appeals to knowledge of how the law operates)

The illustration to assist in comprehension

1. The illustration: A woman whose husband is alive is his wife. If she marries again while her first husband is alive, she is legally guilty of adultery. If her husband dies, she is free to marry again without the worry of adultery.
2. The application: The law only applies to the living and has no influence on the dead.

The explanation to make the point

After salvation we are dead to the law.

How? “by the body of Christ”

For what purpose? “that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead.”

With what result? “that we should bring forth fruit unto God”

Before salvation we were living in the flesh.

What did that look like? “our sinful passions were at work in our members (that is our bodies) to bear fruit for death.”

Why would we do that? We were “aroused by the law.” (This concept is odd. The word *empowered* could be substituted for *aroused*. The point being that the law gives teeth to the bite of sin. [5:20a]. Our deeds were evil and we didn’t even know it, but the law brought them to light.)

After salvation we are dead to the law.

For what purpose? “so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.”

* NOTE * The contrast here is key: our lives in Christ are enslaved to the Holy Spirit, not the Law. Our lives are not to be directed by the Old Testament Law, but by the Holy Spirit who teaches (Jn. 14:26), guides (Jn. 16:13), convicts (Jn. 16:8), illuminates (I Cor. 2:9-12), etc. Not that the O.T. Law is irrelevant or unnecessary, but it is subservient to the Holy Spirit. He uses the whole of God’s Word in our lives.