



# Lesson 8

## *Released from Law's Ineffective Realm* *Romans 7*

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*Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **Summary**

The summary of the argument is laid out (v.5-6). Notice how each of the phrases corresponds to Romans 6 – 8.

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. = Romans 6

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code = Romans 7

but in the new life of the Spirit = Romans 8



## **Our Freedom from the Law (v.1-6)**

The Law is treated as a sphere of authority and power which we have been delivered from.

### **Its Clarifying Illustration** (v.1-3)

Paul poses a question based on a l e g a l principle.

This is a carefully crafted illustration.

### **Its Careful Instruction** (v.4-6)

Upon the death of another, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been released from the authority sphere of the Law.

Our release from the Law is a redemptive-historical reality that impacts us personally and individually.

This perspective prepares us to expect an i n a u g u r a t e d and i n c o m p l e t e experience of its reality.

## **The Functioning of the Law (v.7-13)**

Verses 7-12 argue that though the Law is holy and its content just and good, it is bent by the power of sin to arouse wants and passions leading to evil deeds resulting in the judgment of death.

### **In its Purpose** (v.7)

To s h o w us what sin is...

### **In its Powerlessness** (v.8-11)

Sin uses the law *to stir up evil* d e s i r e s and d e e d s resulting in the judgment of death

Paul clearly sees sin as an a c t i v e f o r c e, a power whose affects can be felt and described.

So, verses 8-11 describe the e n e r g i z i n g power of sin in the presence of people trying to live by law.



**In its P e r f e c t i o n** (v.12)

S i n is the problem, not the law.

We are released from the Law, not because it is sinful, wrong or evil, but because it only r e v e a l s, not s o l v e s our sinfulness.

**Our F u t i l i t y under the Law (v.13-25)**

**In its C a u s e** (v.13)

What is the cause of our futility under the Law?

We know how b a d sin is because it is so perverted and so powerful that it u s e s the Law the way it does.

**With its C o n f l i c t** (v.14-20)

The conflict is the great conflict between that which is s p i r i t u a l and that which is f l e s h.

We are decisively delivered from the p o w e r of sin while we live in the p r e s e n c e of fallenness.

Notice the repetition of the word "d o".

Notice also the repetition of the word "w a n t".

Paul is not saying that since this is our s t r u g g l e we are then no longer r e s p o n s i b l e.

**In its C o n s e q u e n c e** (v.21-25)

*He observes the presence of conflicting s p h e r e s of authority and law (v.21-23).*

*He observes the terrible s t a t e we are in if we try to live by the Law (v.24)*

*He responds by pointing us to Jesus Christ, our Lord (v.25).*

## Lessons for Living

Listen to the key texts from each of Romans 6-8 from the NLT:

So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. (Romans 6:11-14)

So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. When we were [in the flesh (*Gr*)], sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit. Romans 7:4-6

For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently. And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. Romans 8:22-26

Not l i c e n s e and not l a w, but l i f e by the Spirit

Victory over sin is begun now but groaning in s t r u g g l e  
and s u f f e r i n g until the day Jesus comes.