YOU NEED A NEW HUSBAND

Paul teaches that through baptism, we die to sin (Romans 6:2, 10). Paul also shows that believers have died to and have been delivered from the law (Romans 7:5, 6). What could Paul possibly mean by this shocking statement? Before we explore what he means, it is helpful to notice what he does not mean. Paul is clear: the law does not die; we die to the law. When we believe in Jesus, we die to the law—our relationship with the law undergoes a dramatic change.

To prove his point, Paul uses an illustration about the law that governs marriage (Romans 7:1–3). A married woman is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. When he dies, she is free to marry another man. If she marries someone before the death of her husband, she is committing adultery. Paul’s illustration isn’t an allegory in which every nuance of the story corresponds to some other detail of real life. This approach has led to many forced interpretations. Paul’s point is a simple, straightforward point. Death changes our relationship with the law. Just as death releases a wife from the law of marriage, so we die to the law through the body of Christ.

Dying to the law and being released from the law are essential because of our fallen condition. In our fallen flesh, the law, rather than helping regulate bad behavior, actually aroused our sinful passions (Romans 7:5)! By dying to the law, we are enabled to enter a new marriage with Jesus legitimately, which results in bearing fruit to God (Romans 7:4).
Write out Romans 7 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you are pressed for time, write out Romans 7:21–25. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Romans 7. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How does dying to the law as the way of salvation change your relationship with God you?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom07-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Since dying to the law, how have you seen yourself bear fruit to God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom07-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Leviticus 26:3–46
1 Corinthians 9:27
Galatians 2:15–21
Philippians 3:1–16

What other verses come to mind about sanctification?
Meditate on Romans 7 again and look for where Jesus is.

What has helped you better understand the spirituality of God's law?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom07-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what applications are you convicted of in your personal life?

What applications are you convicted of in your social life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/rom07-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How do you think the law arouses sinful passions?

Have you ever felt the law arouse sinful passions in your life?

In what ways can you identify with Paul’s failure to do the things he wants to do and his failure to avoid the things he doesn’t want to do?

Have you ever felt wretched because of your sin? How did you resolve this feeling?

As we come closer to Jesus, why do we perceive ourselves as more sinful? Or less sinful?

Why doesn’t this perception change happen to some people? How can we help?

How does developing an accurate perception of our sinfulness lead to discouragement?

Is there someone you can encourage this week? Who is it, and how?

Dead to the Law?