

The Place of the Law in the Christian's Life

Romans 7:1-13

Chapter 6	Chapter 7
Written to a Gentile mindset	Written to a Jewish mindset
Deals with sin and grace	Deals with sin and the law
Issue: abuse of liberty under grace – a license to sin	Issue: misuse of the law Keeping the law became the measure of spirituality and even salvation
Question: “Shall we go on sinning?” We are forgiven (6:1,15).	Question: What is the place of the law in the Christian's life (7:7)?

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Exodus 19:5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

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Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Romans 7:1 Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives?

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⁴ So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. ⁵ For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. ⁶ But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

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“we died to sin” (6:2) at the moment of salvation	“we died to the law” (7:4)
We have been set free from sin* (6:18). Sin was our master holding us in bondage. Christ is our new Master.	“We have been released from the law” (7:6), i.e., from the curse of the law and its rigid demands.
We walk in newness of life (6:4). We were spiritually dead but now we are alive, brand new creations in Christ.	We serve in newness of Spirit (7:6). Our behavior is guided by the indwelling Holy Spirit which bears fruit.

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⁷ What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

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Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

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Galatians 3:10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

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Romans 7:24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

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Galatians 3:24 The law was our ^[a]tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (NKJV)

Footnotes:

a. In a household, the guardian responsible for the care and discipline of the children