

Romans

How to be a Christian without Being Religious!

Lesson 8

Romans 7:1-25

The Battle is On!

1. Paul uses marriage as an illustration in this chapter to explain how a believer is no longer bound to the law. Explain his illustration using verses 1-3. What releases a married woman from her obligation to her husband, setting her free to remarry (v. 2)?
2. Read verse 4. As a believer, what event releases us from being accountable (bound) to the law? To whom does a believer belong once freed from the law? What is God's purpose for one who now belongs to Him (John 15:5; Eph. 1:11-12; 2:10)?
3. Read verse 5. A non-believer is controlled by what according this verse. What effect does the law have on us? What type of "fruit" does a non-believer bear?
4. Read verse 6. How does one die to the law (See Romans 6:5-7)? By dying to the law, we are released from it. What does this mean to you? What is the "new way" of the Spirit (See Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26-27)? According to Ezekiel who enables us to keep the law? Even though we are released from the law, does God still desire for us to keep it? Who does He give us to help us keep it?
5. In verses 7-25, Paul presents a picture of a Christian struggling with sin. After showing how the law actually arouses our sinful desires and how we are freed from the law some may actually question whether there is anything good about the law. (Instead of giving life, the law brought condemnation; instead of producing holiness, it stimulates sin.)What does Paul have to say about this in verses 7 and 12?
6. Paul states that the law does three good things. What are they? (See vv. 7, 8, and 9-11). What is the ultimate purpose of the law (Galatians 3:24)? How is this purpose fulfilled via the three good things the law does?

7. The law was intended to bring life according to Leviticus 18:5 and Romans 7:10. However, what does the law lead to according to verses 10-11? Why does the law bring death instead of life? (Hint: Sin uses a holy thing [law] for an unholy outcome [death]).
8. In verses 14-20, Paul reveals this struggle with sin that Christians must consider and deal with. Remember, a non-believer only has one nature. What is it? A Christian has two natures, what are they (Romans 8:5-8 and II Peter 1:4; John 14:16-17; II Corinthians 5:17)?
9. Sin in a Christian's life leads to what according to verse 15?
10. What does Paul have to say about our sinful nature according to verse 18?
11. What does Paul recognize taking place within him according to verses 21-23? Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What does Paul command the believer to do in Eph. 6:11? Paul recognizes that Christians are in a battle. For the Christian, the world is not a playground, but a battleground. What are some of the weapons God has provided His children in order that they might enter the battle prepared and armed?
12. What is this "inner being" that Paul refers to in verse 22 (Ephesians 3:16)? What does Paul contrast it to (See Romans 7:18 and 23; Romans 8:7-9)? Sinful nature and flesh (John 6:63) come from the same Greek word, *sarx*. This term for "flesh," or "sinful nature," refers to the unregenerate state of men or the old man.
13. What is this other "law" that Paul sees at work "in the members of [his] body" pulling him away from obedience to God (Verse 23)?
14. Who is the One who rescues the Christian from this battle (Verse 25)?
15. In Romans 8, we will study the key to victory for living the Christian life as God intended. Warren Wiersbe states, "The old [sinful] nature knows no law

and the new nature needs no law.” The best is yet to come! Romans 8 explains the work of the Holy Spirit in overcoming the bad and producing the good. Have you been rescued as Paul had from this battle that is waged between the old nature and the new nature? Can you say along with Paul, “Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ [my] Lord?”