

Romans 7 Outline

1A The rulership of the law and the illustration of marriage, vv.1-3:

1B The principle of the rulership of law, 1: Or are you ignorant, brothers – for I speak to those who know the law – that the law rules the man for as much time as he lives?

2B The illustration, vv.2-3:

1C The life-duration of the bond of marriage, 2: For the woman of a husband is bound to the man by the law while he lives? But if the man dies, she is made null from the law of [her] husband.

2C The consequences of remarriage under two scenarios, 3: Therefore, while the husband is living she will be designated an adulteress, if she becomes [wife] to another man; but if the man dies, she is free from the law, for her to be an adulteress, having become [wife] to another man.

2A Positional death in Christ as the application of the marriage illustration, vv.4-6:

1B Our current status of death to the law, and new purpose, 4: So that, my brothers, you also are dead to the law through the body of Christ, for you to become [wife] to another, to the one raised from death, that we might bear fruit to God.

2B The former status in the flesh, 5: For when we were in the flesh the passions of the sins which were roused because of the law in our members to bear fruit to death.

3B The current status and its purpose, 6: But now we have been made null from the law, having died in what we were held, for us to serve in newness of the Spirit, and not in oldness of the letter.

3A The quickening of the sin nature, and the result, vv.7-11:

1B Learning through a single commandment of the law, 7: What then shall we say? Is the law sin? May it not be!; But I did not know sin, except through law; for I would not have known lust except the law said, do not lust;

2B Expansion to every lust, 8: but sin, taking opportunity through the commandment produces in me every lust; For apart from the law sin is dead.

3B The quickening of sin and the resulting spiritual death, 9: But I was then alive apart from the law; but after the commandment came, sin came alive and I myself died.

4B The true direction of the commandment, 10: And the commandment was found by me, which was toward life, this was toward death;

5B The moment of spiritual death, 11: for sin, after taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it I died.

4A The intrinsic goodness of the commandment, vv.12-14:

1B Declaration of the goodness of the law, 12: Therefore the law is holy, the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

- 2B** Production of excessive sinfulness toward death as good, 13: Therefore has the good thing become death for me? May it not be! But sin, that sin might be manifest, was producing death in me through the good thing, that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.
- 3B** Comparison between law and self, 14: For we know that the law is spiritual; but I myself am fleshly, having been sold under sin.
- 5A** The problem of the intent of our will vs. sin, vv.15-25:
- 1B** The misdirection from intent, 15: For what I am producing, I do not know; For what I do not intend, this I practice; but what I hate, this I do.
- 2B** The agreement between behavior and the law, 16: And if what I do not intend, this I do, I agree with the law that is good.
- 3B** The source of the behavior, 17: But now I no longer produce it, but the sin which dwells in me.
- 4B** The reality of the inner self and behavior, 18: For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willingness is present in me, but the producing of good I do not find.
- 5B** Personal illustration of the inner self and behavior, vv.19-20:
- 1C** Intent and failure, 19: For what I do not intend good, I do; but what I do not intend evil, this I practice.
- 2C** Conclusion, 20: But if what I myself do not intend, this I do, I am no longer producing it, but the sin that dwells in me.
- 6B** Two laws of human behavior, vv.21-23:
- 1C** The law of the destruction of intent, 21: I find therefore, a law, that in the one who intends to do good, that evil is present in me.
- 2C** The delight in the law of God, 22: For I delight together in the law of God according to the inner man;
- 3C** The law of the war against the mind, 23: But I see another law in my members, making war against the law of my mind, and taking me prisoner in the law of the mind of sin which is in my members.
- 7B** The plea for rescue from illicit behavior, 24: Wretched man that I am; who will rescue me from this body of death?
- 8B** The answer, 25a: I give thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 9B** Final summary, 25b: In summary while I myself serve the law of God in my mind, [I serve] the law of sin with my flesh.