

Call to Worship— Psalm 146:5-7
Sermon Text— Romans 7:1-6
Benediction— Ephesians 2:13-16

Text — Romans 7:1-6

[1] Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? [2] For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. [3] Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

[4] Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. [5] 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. [6] But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. (ESV)

NEXT WEEK: ZEALOUS— Ephesians 2:11-22 [Charlie Preaching]

Outline: “Released”

- **INTRO/RECAP**— Treasured possessions fully committed to good works. ZEALOUS, eager, fully committed. It's time in our extended strategic vision series to shift gears and focus onto our mission, to our neighbor. Today's text does just that, shifting the metaphor from slavery to sin to addressing a specific audience using the analogy of marriage. Simply stated, today's message s emphasizing that just as a woman whose husband has died is free to marry another, so also are believers who are identified in Christ's death free from the law, and even more FREE to belong to Christ. Do you need fuel in your tank this morning to be zealous for Christ and his kingdom? Then let it be known you have freedom from the law and have been set free to belong to Christ. Amen.

- v1-3 [1] Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? [2] For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. [3] Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.
 - Audience— brothers... to those who know the law
 - The Law is binding on a person only as long as he live.
 - Analogy— Divorce & Remarriage
 - This is supposed to be common understanding to help understand v4-6
 - The emphasis is the covenant (legal binding) commitment in marriage and the emphasis is a singular illustration that an at will “no fault” type divorce followed by “joining” with another is adulterous BUT no law is binding in death. DUH! (and duh is the point... this is supposed to be a duh illustration that immediately helps the understanding of dying in Christ frees us to belong to him).

- v4-6 Likewise...
 - This is the meaning
 - You also have died to the law through the body of Christ, SO THAT you may belong to another
 - Jesus— who was raised from the dead
 - In order that we may bear fruit for God— ZEALOUS
 - Before this “death” aka living in the flesh our LAW amplified sins & desires were at work in our members bearing fruit for death— ANTI-ZEALOUS
 - BUT NOW... (Causal) WE ARE RELEASED FROM THE LAW
 - Having dies to that which held us captive
 - SO THAT we SERVE in the new way of the Spirit and not it the old way of the written code
 - ZEALOUS

CONCLUSION— “the new way of the Spirit”

[6] But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. Unmerited favor illustrated

- the Spirit is God
 - bearing fruit for God IN Christ
 - Supernatural (greater than natural)
 - New and better than