



Chapter Seven

INTRODUCTION

NOTE: When defining a doctrine there is usually one section of scripture which best states the principle.

For the doctrine of old Israel's marriage to Yahweh, and Jesus' marriage to New Jerusalem, Romans 7 is the defining chapter.

Many "teachers" have misused Romans 7 to try and make it fit their preconceived notions of how they want the Bible to read. But, if you keep an objective view of it, and ask Jesus to show you the truth ... by the time you finish this lesson you will see the truth ... and it will set you free. "Truly, the light is sweet" (Ecc. 11:7).

ROMANS chapter seven is one of the most referenced chapters in the New Testament ... and one of the most misunderstood. Chapters 7 & 8 represent the apex of Paul's teaching on salvation by grace, the new birth, and eonian life. He explains this concept over and over and over again, from various angles ... in hopes of connecting with all who have "ears to hear."

He compares the subject to marriage. This analogy applies to Old Israel's Covenant relationship with Yahweh, as well as New Jerusalem's Covenant relationship with Jesus. We will expound on both of those.

He went into great detail explaining the doctrine. I've heard it said that he went into too much detail, and maybe that's true. His motive was to explain it in every way possible to connect with the reasoning paradigms of as many as possible..

But in spite of Paul's great effort to reach his brethren no matter where they were, Paul is often misunderstood, and his writings are often mistaught. For instance, most churches have taught that Paul was antinomian (anti-law). They quote verses from English versions of the Bible, verses which are mistranslated and misinterpreted, which seem to indicate that Paul was antinomian ... thus they are against law. A few churches, on the other hand, argue paradoxically that God did not do away with law, and accuse Paul of heresy for his antinomianism.

Both groups error in presuming that Paul was antinomian (against law).

In fact, Paul was not anti-law. He wrote extensively defending law, explaining its function. But, because of church-generated confusion Paul is generally branded antinomian today. Today, the New Testament is automatically read with antinomian presumption ... in spite of the fact that Paul said, "*the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good*" (Rm. 7:12) – and Jesus said, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I came not to destroy but to fulfill. For I say to you truly, until the heaven and the land pass away, not one iota or jot will pass from the Law until all things have come to pass*" (Mtt. 5:17-18) – and John said, "*And in this we know that we have known Him, in that we keep his commandments. He who says, I know Him, and is not keeping his commandments, he is a liar and the truth is not in him.*" (1 Jn. 2:3-4).

The churches have used pagan precepts to interpret Paul, and thus they have confused his teachings. He taught one way, the churches interpreted him another way. To correctly interpret Paul we need to quit accepting the word of preachers who parrot other preachers who parrot theologians who pretend to know what they are talking about. To avoid this confusion you need to get out your reference books, do your own research, and quit assuming that churches can be trusted. In my experience, churches are fronts for con men who elicit your trust but know little or nothing of what they purport to know.

ROMANS 7:1-3 THE LAW OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Do you not know, brethren (for I speak to them that know the law,) that the law is lord of the man while he is living?

For the woman who is under a man is bound to that man by law while he lives. But if the man should die she is released from the law of that man.

So then if, while the man is living, she became a different man's, she would be called an adulteress. But if the man should die, she is free from that law and is not an adulteress though she has become another man's.

FIRST of all, Paul is talking to "brethren," and he presumes that they know the law. Obviously, then, he's talking to Israelites.

Secondly, he says the law has authority over a man while he is living. That said, and the principle acknowledged, Paul now wants to speak of a particular law: the law of marriage.

Among other things, this shows that law was not abolished ... as the churches have claimed.

Now, pay close attention as we continue, because we are about to explain a doctrine that has been a stumbling block for many. Preachers continue to preach this doctrine wrongly in spite of the simple truth.

Paul says that the woman who is "under a man" is bound by the law to her man. But if the man dies, she is loosed from "the law of the man." So the law that Paul is referring to is the marriage law, or the law that defines how a woman and a man are bound together. And "the law of the man" is a reference to the marriage contract. When the husband dies, that law, or the contract, is abolished ... loosing the woman from that law (contract).

The husband is considered, Biblically, to be a lord or master of the house. The English word "husband" has been used by the translators for

the Hebrew words "eesh" (man) and "baal" (lord). That may seem strange in light of what we know about the Babylonian god, Baal. As a matter of fact, "baal" (in Hebrew) is correctly translated "husband." Even when referring to the heathen god of Babylon the word means "husband." Baal was a husband/god in Babylon. Gods are called "husbands" of the people who worship them. "Baal" means "husband" and "lord," and the word even refers to Yahweh:

31. Behold, the days come, says Yahweh, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband (baal) to them, says Yahweh:

Jer. 31:31-32

America's "baal" is Congress. That is, America's "husband" (or "lord") is the US Government. That is why we say that America has abandoned Jesus and has played the harlot with another "husband."

To see how the New Testament agrees with the Old Testament in describing the role of a "lord," see Ephesians five:

21. Subjecting yourselves to one another in fear of Christ.

22. The women to their own men, as to the Lord.

23. For the man is the head of the woman, even as Christ is the head of the ecclesia, and he is the savior of the body.

24. Therefore as the ecclesia is subjecting itself to Christ, so also the women to their own men in everything.

Ephesians 5:21-24

A woman "subjecting herself," or being "under the man," is what's meant by a woman being bound by "the law of the man."

QUESTION: From the description you give, it sounds like the Biblical husband/wife relationship is a dictatorship of the husband over the wife, because it says that the husband is the "lord." Does that mean the wife is the "slave?" What is meant for a woman to be "subject" or in "submission" to the man?

ISRAEL MARRIED

Paul's teaching about the law of marriage carries with it a meaning that goes beyond the typical man and woman. It deals with God's relation with Israel. Yahweh called his covenant relationship with Israel a "marriage." The nation of Israel was called "the wife," and Yahweh was called the husband. That covenant marriage was documented in Exodus chapter 24:

3. And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which Yahweh said we will do.

7. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the hearing of the people: and they said, All that Yahweh has said we will do, and be in submission.

Exodus 24: 3, 7

Moses asked the nation of Israel if she would enter into a covenant with Yahweh, and promise to honor and obey Him. Israel, the bride, said "I do." This was a wedding vow, and the covenant was a marriage contract. At that point, they (Yahweh and Israel) officially became husband and wife. Yahweh became Israel's baal.

But Israel soon abandoned her Husband. As you will see, there's a lot more than meets the eye in this

biblical account. According to Romans 7: 3, as long as both parties are alive the covenant is in force and they both are bound by the law of the contract (covenant). This is true with regard to the husband as well as the wife. The law works the same in both cases: one spouse is bound to the other until one of them dies ... or until one abandons the other. In that case, the survivor, or the one who is abandoned, is released from the law ... because the covenant's law has been rendered dead by the death or abandonment.

In this case, with Israel (the wife) and Yahweh (the husband), this aspect of the law could apply only to Israel ... since Yahweh could not die. The spouse (Israel) was the only one capable of dying. This may seem like a trifling point, but if you don't accept this fundamental truth and stick with it, then you may be off point when reading Romans 7.

As we have seen from Exodus 24, Israel's first marriage was to Yahweh. Moses gave the marriage vows, the family of Israel accepted them. Later on Israel abandoned her Husband. This adultery is documented in I Samuel 8. Samuel had been God's judge over Israel:

4. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel at Ramah.

5. And said to him, Behold, you are old, and your sons walk not in your ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

I Samuel 8:4-5

So, the elders of Israel petitioned Samuel and demanded a "king like the other nations," they were asking for another **lord**, or **husband**. And a key point in these examples is that in the context of history a king is usually a lawmaker. Furthermore, the power to make law defines a god. When the elders of Israel said they wanted a king (lawmaker), they were saying they wanted **a new god**.

Thus, it becomes clear what Scripture means when it speaks of Israel committing adultery with other gods.

The kings of the heathen were lawmakers. They were gods. Israel demanded, through their elders, that Samuel give them a god-king (lawmaker) like the other nations. Israel no longer wanted Yahweh and his law. So Israel (the wife) became a whore by abandoning her first husband and whoring after other gods, other law systems, other governments). I Samuel 8 goes on to say:

6. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed to Yahweh.

7. And Yahweh the Lord said to Samuel, Harken to the voice of the people in all that they say to you: for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

8. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also to you.

9. Now therefore hearken to their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly to them, and show them the manner of the king [the husband] that shall reign over them.

I Samuel 8: 6-9

Israel rejected Yahweh as her husband, and was lusty after other husbands.

Samuel went on to explain to Israel the problems that would come from taking other husbands or kings (foreign forms of government). Israel covenanted with (married) many foreign kings/gods in the years to come. She kept whoring after foreign gods (law systems). Then, in the book of Jeremiah, chapter three, we read this:

1. It is said, If a man puts away his wife, and she goes from him, and becomes another man's, shall he return to her again? would not that land be greatly polluted? but you [Israel] whose with many companions, yet you return to me? says Yahweh.

2. Lift up your eyes to the high places, and see. Where you have not been lain with. By the highways you have sat for them, as the Arab in the wilderness; and you have polluted the land with your whoredoms and with your wickedness.

3. Therefore the rains have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain; and you have a whore's forehead, you refused to be ashamed.

Jeremiah 3:1-3

Israel would have continued whoring around and then pretending to return to Yahweh. But He tells her NO. He was putting her away, and she is forbidden to come back as his wife.

The term "a whore's forehead" refers to an exposed face. The face is the "fore" or front of the head. The practice of modest women was to put a veil over their faces when they were in public. Thus, the phrase could be saying, "a whore's face." For instance, Rebekah was a chaste woman, and when she was about to meet Isaac for the first time she covered her face with a veil:

63. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

64. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lowered herself from the camel.

65. For she had said to the servant, What man is this that walks in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, it is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.

Genesis 24:63-65

Lowering herself from the camel and covering her face with a veil showed humility and modesty. In contrast, impure and immodest women did not cover their faces with veils. Therefore, "a whore's forehead" was a face that was not covered by a veil. There is no pretense of modesty with a whore.

Back to verse 6 of Jeremiah 3:

6. *Yahweh said also to me in the days of Josiah the king, Have you seen that which backsliding Israel has done? She is gone up upon every high mountain (every government) and under every green tree (every religion), and there has played the harlot.*

Jeremiah 3:6

Mountains were symbolic of governments or rulers, and the green trees were apparently the places where they would build altars and conduct religious rituals to other gods (other husbands). He likens it to Israel seeking other gods and law systems.

7. *And I said after she had done all these things, Turn to me. But she turned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.*

8. *And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.*

9. *And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.*

Jeremiah 3:7-9

Adultery with stones and with stocks has reference to altars and idols. Altars were usually built from stones piled up on each other, and idols were usually sculpted from the trunks or “stocks” of trees. “Stones and stocks” represented the governments and religions that Israelites were adopting in place of the law system and government that Yahweh had given them.

In today’s more industrialized society we don’t stop at sculpting golden calves and idols such as that. Today our idols include courthouses, parliament buildings, capitol buildings, U.N. buildings, and monuments of that kind. And so we build these monuments to other lords (mammon and self), and we seek those illicit relationships with heathen husbands/gods.

Because of this adultery, Yahweh points out that He had to send Israel away as a whore, or in other words, He had to divorce her. Israel was divorced and turned over to her heathen husbands when she was taken captive by Assyria ... at least 700 years before Jesus’ birth. Therefore, by the time Paul was writing the book of Romans, Israel had been divorced and alienated from Yahweh for hundreds of years. Yahweh had not been Israel’s husband for a long, long time. The harlot wife had belonged to many other husbands, but no longer to Yahweh. Israel was scattered around in different places throughout Asia Minor and Europe, and there she had adopted different gods and law systems. She was a fallen woman.

Thus Paul told the Roman Israelites that they were victims of a broken home. Their forefathers had broken their marriage covenant with Yahweh, and they were step children in the lands where they lived. This was Israel’s condition when God sent Jesus to her.

Israel had been divorced from Yahweh for centuries. She had taken other husbands. Yahweh was no longer her husband. He was a FORMER HUSBAND. Therefore Romans 7:3 could not be referring to Yahweh, because Yahweh was not her current husband. Even if He could have died (which He couldn’t) it would not have fulfilled the presumed need that some churches claim. Since He was no longer Israel’s husband his death would not have released her from the law of marriage ... for they were not married at that time.

QUESTION: I can see how kings make law, but could you give me an example of how a god, a master, a lord and a husband might make law?

ROMANS 7:4 WHO DIED: THE HUSBAND, OR THE WIFE?

Wherefore, my brethren, you also are become dead to the law through the body of Christ; that you should become another’s, even his who is raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

NOW, this is where some people get their thinking all tangled up. This passage has been a stumbling block for some because of error that is taught to them. Certain churches have taught that the husband (Yahweh) had to die in order for the woman (Israel) to remarry without being an adulteress. They say that since this refers to Yahweh and Israel, then Yahweh had to die so Israel could remarry.

How absurd to suggest that YAHWEH HAD TO DIE! Pastors who are either ignorant or prostituted tell their congregations that the ever-living, immortal Creator had to die! The very thought is insane! Think about it. “Immortal” means **incapable of dying**. There is no honest and intelligent way to argue that Yahweh died. If we are to think clearly, soundly and honestly about these concepts, we are forced to admit that there is no way Yahweh could have died. For Yahweh to die would, among other things, disqualify Him from being Yahweh (whose name means “the One who exists”).

Nevertheless, opting for insanity, and ignoring what words actually mean and the concepts they embody, church pastors insist that somehow the immortal Yahweh became mortal, changed his name to Jesus, and died. And since logic and common sense have already been abandoned, they continue the insult by claiming further that, somehow, while He was dead He was still immortal; and while He was powerless He was still all-powerful, and that He (being dead) was able to give Himself life and raise Himself from the grave.

The undisputed principle that LIFE CAN ONLY COME FROM LIFE, then, puts an insurmountable hurdle

before those who want to believe that Yahweh died ... for if He was dead, there was then no living God from whom life could emanate. Case closed.

When confronted with truth and common sense, churchgoers may counter with, "Well, God can do ANYTHING!" But their own claims preclude it! By making their paganized "god" die, they un-deify him and make him a no god. A dead god is a no god. Therefore, even their ace in the hole – "God can do anything" – does not rescue them from the insanity into which they've sunk. A DEAD GOD (a no god) can do nothing!

Besides embracing the absurdity that an immortal can become mortal, they don't even realize that they have completely erased the actual personality of Jesus by claiming that He was not really who He claimed, but was only Yahweh in disguise.

Yahweh and Jesus are TWO BEINGS! By trying to blend them together the pagan churches have attempted to eliminate one and adulterate the other. Under their deluded thinking, there really was no actual Son of God who ACTUALLY died and was ACTUALLY raised ... and they deprive Yahweh of Fatherhood. This is what people do when they claim that Yahweh impersonated His own son and pretended to die.

But the scripture is specific on this point, and clears up the matter with one word in verse four. That one word is "YOU" – "YOU (not Yahweh) ARE BECOME DEAD!" "YOU" (Israel) died and were raised anew.

Yahweh's Old Covenant marriage with Israel had been annulled 700 years earlier. It no longer bound anyone. No one needed to die to be released from it. It was history.

But Jesus needed a spotless, new Bride. Thus, New Jerusalem (reborn Israel) was created. Paul says YOU (New Jerusalem) died and were raised (born again). He did not say Yahweh died. He said ISRAEL died.

1. And you (Israel) being **dead** in your trespasses and sins;

5. And we [Israel] being **dead** in trespasses and sins, He (Yahweh) **made us**

alive (raised us) together with Christ - by grace you have been saved;

Ephesians 2: 1, 5

12. Having been **buried** with Him in baptism, in whom also you were raised together through the faith of the inward operation of God, who has raised Him from the dead.

13. And you, being **dead** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He quickened together with Him, having graciously forgiven us all trespasses;

14. Having blotted out the handwritten note (debt) that was against us (Israel) based on the doctrines, and took it (the debt, not the law) out of the way, having nailed it to the cross;

Colossians 2: 12-14

3. For **you** (Israel) **being dead**, and your life has been hid with Christ in God.

Colossians 3: 3

Israel died a spiritual death in trespasses and sins. Spiritually-reborn Israelites (Christians) are new creatures (II Corinthians 5:17), cleansed by the blood of Jesus, and by rebirth as the New Bride. The New Bride is reborn Israel: New Jerusalem. And the risen Jesus is the Bridegroom whom Yahweh provided. The New Covenant Bride is NOT the Old Covenant Bride. The Old Bride died spiritually. The New Bride is a virgin ... spotless and NEW. Yahweh's Son received a New Bride ... not an old harlot who had been given a bath. The New Bride is made up of New Born Israelites who are new creatures in Christ. This is the meaning of the ceremony of baptism – showing the death of the old man and the rebirth/raising of the new man in Christ. The New Bride (New Jerusalem) is a NEW CREATION, NEWLY BORN!

22. But you are come to mount Sion, and to the living city of God, to heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of messengers,

23. To the general assembly and ecclesia of the **firstborn** having been enrolled in

the heavens, and to God the Judge of all, and to spirits of just men having been perfected,

Heb. 12:22-23

New Jerusalem is the Living City of God. We are New Jerusalem. Together we are the Bride of Christ, just as Old Israel (Old Jerusalem) was the Bride of Yahweh.

There are inherent problems with the idea of Yahweh dying in order to remarry old Israel. For instance:

1. Yahweh cannot die, and therefore cannot be reborn.

2. Even if Yahweh could die, that would have left the Universe with a dead god ... and with no one to give life or to raise the dead.

3. Even if, by a stretch of the imagination, Yahweh could die, and be raised back to life, He still could not remarry old Israel because she was an ex-whore and divorced. There are specific laws which prohibited Jesus our High Priest (Heb. 8:1) from marrying ex-whores and divorced wives (see Lev. 21:1-7).

According to British-Israel church doctrine, Jesus was to remarry old Israel. They claim He washed her up, sanitized her, deloused her, and "re-married" her. But, that simply cannot be ... for the law prevents it. Besides, New Jerusalem is described as a pure virgin, holy and spotless.

4. Some may say, "Well, why can't Yahweh/Jesus marry the new, reborn Israel instead of the old whore?" But, you see, the New Israel is a new creation. She is not the Old Israel. Therefore such a marriage could not fulfill the role British Israelites' describe of "remarrying" Israel.

Old Israel is genetically descended from Jacob. New Israel is spiritually descended from Abraham – spiritually raised by Christ. Many of Old Israel did not accept and keep the new life offered to them by Christ. Therefore, these are two categories distinguished from one another. And this explains Romans 9:6-8 which says:

6. ... For not all those out of Israel are Israel:

7. Neither, because they are all children are they the seed of Abraham: but, In Isaac will your seed be called.

8. That is, **not the children of the flesh** are the children of God: but **the children of the promise are being counted as seed.**

New Israel comes out of Old Israel. But not all of Old Israel has become New Israel. So, Paul is pointing out the difference between flesh Israel and spiritual Israel. Both are genetic Israelites, but one is more in that he is also **a child of the promise**. New Israel is identified as “the children of the promise” (spiritually connected). Old Israel is identified as “the children of the flesh” (only genetically connected).

The Old dead wife is not the New living wife. Furthermore, the Romans 7:4 scenario shows a New wife married to ANOTHER (not remarried to the same husband). Now stop and think about that word, The very word – “ANOTHER” – excludes the idea of Israel re-marrying Yahweh. Thus, it is a NEW marriage ... with a New Groom and a New Wife. New Jerusalem is married to the Son; the risen Jesus – Heir of the Throne of New Jerusalem.

Yahweh did not die! Scripture does not say He died! He cannot die! Those who claim He had to die to remarry Old Israel simply do not understand scripture.

[In 1989, I sent out two taped sermons titled, “Is Jesus God?” In 1990 I published that study in print (\$8:50 per copy). This study refuted the absurd argument that Yahweh “Remarried his Old Wife” (Old Israel). It proved, from the Bible, that Jesus is the Son of Yahweh, not Yahweh Himself. There was quite a positive reaction, as well as some negative reactions. The negative reactions came mostly from a few preachers clinging to their Judeo church agenda. Most preachers simply refused to read the study!

Eighteen years later, NO ONE has presented an **on-point** rebuttal of the study! They have either ignored it and dismissed it out of hand, or presented incomplete studies based upon erroneous English translations rather than the Greek text.]

ROMANS 7:5-10 THE LAW DEFINES SIN AND DEATH

For when we were in the flesh the afflictions of the sins which were defined by the law were at work within our members to bear fruit unto death.

But now we, being dead in which we were held, are nullified from the law; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in oldness of the letter.

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? It cannot be! But, I perceived no sin except by the law: for I had not perceived lust except the law was saying, You shall not covet.

But given occasion, the sin, as per the commandment, wrought in me every lust. For without the law sin is dead.

For I was living apart from law once: but when the commandment was revealed, sin revived, and I died.

And to me the commandment which was to life was found to be unto death.

PAUL is speaking from the perspective of a new-born Christian; a new citizen of New Jerusalem. The phrase “in the flesh” speaks of the past and of having been spiritually dead in sins. He had been condemned in the flesh by his sins defined by the law. The passions of sin – as defined by the law – had worked spiritual death in him.

Now, when you read this passage, be careful that you don’t accuse wrongly. Churches have accused the law. They say that “law” was the culprit in this passage. But law cannot be the culprit, for Paul says, in verse 12 that “*the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and righteous, and good.*”

The culprit here is clearly NOT the law, but the passions of sin. SIN IS THE CULPRIT. When the truth of law came and revealed to Paul his passions of sin, he died (to flesh). Paul was slain by the truth which was revealed through his new spiritual eyes.

In verse six Paul says he was “*nullified from the law,...*” The law was not nullified. Paul was nullified. Churches claim that God was trying to correct a faulty system by abolishing law. Logically, then, it makes one wonder why God would make laws in the first place ... if they were bad and only caused problems. And why would God give Israel law, and then change his mind as if **He** was unstable?

The Bible teaches that Yahweh is perfect – unlike man – and that His Law is perfect. God doesn’t make mistakes like man, and He doesn’t change like man. God did not create bad law, nor did He do away with law. Rather, men came up with an excuse to break and ignore God’s Law ... by saying it had been abolished. This idea is borne out by a closer study of word definitions and context.

In verse 6, Paul does not say the law was nullified. Rather, he says we, through death, were “nullified” ... thus exempt from the law’s punishment. Nobody in his right mind would claim that God nullified his law. You can’t get away from law. Any intelligent person would not want to. But, “nullified from the law” means something totally different: it means the law’s sentence against your sinful flesh has been “annulled” by the death of that flesh.

So the way that we were “nullified from the law” is that we “died.” And the way that we “died” is that we “mortified the flesh” and “crucified the flesh” after the ex-

ample of Christ. This all begins to fit together quite nicely, and begins to make sense. Instead of believing that the Law of God was a failure that had to be scrapped, we now understand that sin was the culprit, and by the grace of God our flesh nature was placed under subjection to the spirit of God. Since the guilty party (the flesh) was dead, the PENALTY of the law no longer applied to it.

To verify this, Paul, in verse seven, asks if the law is sin. Is law wrong? Should we avoid law? And he answers the question quickly, saying “No, *It cannot be!*” Paul did not discredit law.

For example, the law says “*you shall not covet your neighbor’s property.*” It is sin to lust after something you cannot have. But understand ... this law does **not** say that “coveting” is, itself, a sin. Coveting is a sin ONLY when unlawful things are coveted. In fact the Bible tells us to **covet** that which is good (I Cor. 12:31; I Cor. 14:39).

Paul defends the law by pointing out that it defined the sin of coveting. He knew the law before, but he hadn’t understood it. Only after his eyes were opened to understand the spirit of the law did he understand. He began to see things in himself he didn’t like. He had been lusting after forbidden things and thus breaking the law. He had been mindlessly lusting – without feeling guilt. However, when the law was revealed to him, the sin became apparent, and he (his flesh nature) had to die.

Inside the new Christian a new battle begins between flesh and spirit. The struggle ensues between your carnal nature and your spiritual con-

science. This is the “journey,” the “battle,” that these verses address.

In verses 9-10 Paul says that truth exposed by the law showed him (his flesh nature) to be condemned. The spirit of Christ exposed Paul’s flesh nature. His new spirit (Christ’s spirit) led him to “mortify” (put to death) the flesh (carnal nature). He says that the commandment which showed him life, actually caused death ... to the flesh nature.

If you understand this interaction between law, sin, death and life, then you can understand the following otherwise paradoxical words of Christ in Matthew 10:

39. He that finds his soul will lose it: and he that loses his soul for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 10:39

Jesus is talking about two different “souls”: the carnal soul and the spiritual soul. The principle, then, is that Jesus’ spirit in us instigates a battle between the flesh (Latin: *carnalis*) and the spirit. To support your spiritual life you must stop supporting your carnal life. Jesus says it both ways in verse 39. It means to reject the carnal mindset of the “old man,” and opt for the spiritual mindset of the “new man.”

Matthew 16 makes the spiritual life concept a little more clear:

24. Then Jesus said to his disciples, If anyone will follow me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25. For whosoever will save his soul will lose it: and whosoever will lose his soul

for my sake will find it.

26. For what will a man profit, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Matthew 16:24-26

If we wish to save our souls we must subject them to Jesus.

The purpose of the law is to define and expose sin. Paul had studied law all of his life, but he didn’t understand it until he met Christ and received spiritual insight. When he understood, he became convicted of his sins ... and his flesh nature died. That’s the effect the new birth (the “raising”) has on men.

Chapter seven is basic, and yet, the churches have confused it. Churchgoers are systematically disconnected from logic and reason by the church’s barrage of pagan orientation and mythological religious fantasies – colorful, but false.

QUESTION: You talk about a struggle between flesh and spirit. Isn’t it rather a supernatural struggle with Satan and his demons against God and his angels ... with man fitting in somewhere between?

ROMANS 7:11-23 THE LAW VERSUS THE FLESH

For sin, occasioned by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Did the good thing therefore become death to me? May

it never be!. But sin, in order that it might be shown as sin, was working death in me, through the good thing; that sin might become exceeding sinful through the commandment.

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

For that which I am accomplishing I know not: for I am not doing that which I wish; but that which I hate, this I am doing.

But if I am doing that which I do not wish, I am agreeing that the law is good.

But now it is no longer I that am doing it, but the sin that dwells in me.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwells no good thing: for the will to do good is with me, but the ability is not.

For I am not doing the good that I wish: but I am doing the bad which I do not wish.

But if I am doing that which I do not wish, it is no more I that do it, but the sin dwelling in me.

I find then a law, that, when I wish to be doing good, bad is present with me.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

But I see a different law in my members, warring against my mind's law and taking me captive in the sin's law which is in my members.

NOW, notice in verse 11, it wasn't law that deceived Paul. Law was not the problem. Rather it was SIN that deceived Paul and ruined him. The Law only revealed the sin. To blame law for the result of sin is to kill the messenger.

Verses 12 and 13 go together. Since the law is holy and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Sin is that which caused death, and the law merely exposed it. The problem lies with man, not with law.

In verse 15 he is explaining the spiritual struggle, within a Christian, between the law and the flesh. Carnal man cannot understand the spirit of law. Only after God gives man spiritual understanding can he discern the law's true meaning and obey it correctly – for the carnal mind does not subject itself to the law (Rom. 8:4-7).

One of the things a Christian has to do is to admit that he is not perfect ... that being less than perfect is OK

as long as we can lean on Christ.

Paul is merely saying that he has faith in Christ – not in his flesh. He identifies two factions within himself: the spirit of life and the spirit of death. The Christ spirit is equated with “life” and “the new man,” and the carnal spirit in him is equated to “death” and “the old man.”

Now, verse 18 is the perfect verse to quote to a humanist. Humanists believe that men are naturally good if left alone. “I’m okay, you’re okay.”

Paul refutes that by saying that in his flesh, dwells no good thing. He says, “... *the will to do good is with me, but the ability is not.*” In other words, Paul has the spirit to do what is right but his flesh is weak: a principle stated in Matthew 26, verse 41: “... *The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.*”

Later he explains.

24. Do you not know that the runners in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Thus run so that you may receive.

25. And every contestant exercises self-discipline in all things; those indeed to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26. Thus, I am running accordingly, not indecisively; thus I am boxing, not as one flaying the air:

27. But I am subjugating my body and directing it as a slave: lest somehow, when I have preached to others, I myself should become rejected.

I Corinthians 9:24-27

Paul was disciplining his flesh, keeping it under subjection. He said the “inward man” was delighting in the law of God. But “the law in his members” was contending with his “will” to do good. One law was bringing him into captivity to sin and death, and the other law was pointing him toward life. These two laws were warring within him – the old man of sin against the new man in Christ.

ROMANS 7:24-25 CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST, NOT FLESH

Afflicted man that I am! Who will rescue me from the body of this death?

But I thank God through Christ Jesus our Lord. So then with the mind I myself am serving the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

PAUL was in a struggle between mind and flesh. He says that his new “eyes” have made him aware of sin by showing him the real meaning of law (i.e., the spirit of the law). And he now understands that sin is an “affliction” of the flesh, and that the remedy is Christ.

Man was created as flesh, and thus prone to sin. God created him thus ... in need of God's guidance and grace. As long as man recognizes his need for God's guidance and grace, everything goes well. But, history shows that man, expressly Israel, allowed flesh to rule them, and had fallen away. They had committed spiritual suicide by following their carnal natures. Thus, Paul (an Israelite) was in a state of spiritual death until he was reborn in the spirit of Christ.

He says that having the law was not enough, for without Christ's spirit we are incapable of doing it.

Thus Paul has described his predicament as the predicament of all men. Next, as we go on into Chapter Eight, he will give us the answer. It is the answer for all men.

The answer is stated in the first verse of Romans 8. We will read and explain that answer in our next lesson.

END OF
ROMANS CHAPTER SEVEN

ROMANS CHAPTER SEVEN

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Paul, and the New Testament, are typically presumed by most churchgoers to be antinomian (anti-law). This prejudice is instilled into the minds of churchgoers by theologians employed by church leaders whose agenda is the need for control.
2. Paul teaches and defends law often in his letters. In fact, large sections of his letters are explanations and applications of law. Romans 7 is an example of Paul's explanation of law. In it Paul deals with the law of marriage, law of divorce, law of sin and flesh, law of spiritual death and new birth, law of justification through Christ.
3. The first few verses of Romans 7 cite the force of a marriage contract. It binds both parties as long as both are alive. The principle is applied to the marriage of Yahweh and Israel through the Old Covenant.
3. Verse 4 identifies a new bride created to marry King Jesus. The new bride is New Jerusalem, comprised of Israelites who died (spiritually) and were raised (spiritually). The marriage is a spiritual union.
4. The claim, by certain churches, that Yahweh died in order to "remarry" old Israel is a falacy based upon a misreading and misinterpretation of Romans 7:4.
5. The flesh nature afflicts man with sins, leading to spiritual death. But Christ brought us the remedy, by forgiving us, raising us from death, and giving us a new life of serving Him in newness of spirit.
6. Men die spiritually due to sin, not due to law. Law exposes sin, thus revealing the death sin causes. But law does not kill. Sin kills.
7. Paul says, in verse 12, that the law is holy, just, and good. Law is not to blame for man's problems.

8. The struggle between flesh and spirit leaves us dependent upon God to help us overcome the errors of our fleshly nature. That is how God created us, and wants us. He wants us dependent upon Him. And He wants to help us. He is our Father, and that is what Fathers do.

ANSWERS:

pg. 2

"Subject yourself" and *"being in submission"* are hated terms in today's society. That is due to ignorance. Subjecting ourselves to God's true authorities is the correct method to develop an orderly and Godly society.

Paul taught that it was everyone's duty to subject themselves to their rightful authorities. The authorities were often called "elders." He did NOT suggest that women should become slaves. However, in a sane society men and women voluntarily subject themselves to their elders, to their teachers, to their lords.

The biblical civil structure is created by the people subjecting themselves ... not by rulers forcing people into slavery. In other words, a Godly culture is rightly built from the bottom up, not from the top down.

Forced slavery is never acceptable ... except in the case of a criminal or an enemy. Biblically, a wife subjects herself to her husband, the same as the husband subjects himself to his elders ... as we (the ecclesia) subject ourselves to Jesus. If we, or a wife, do not choose to be in submission, no one forces us.

"Force" is the key word. In ungodly societies, with "liberated women," untrained and undisciplined children, and lawless adults no one chooses to be in submission ... thus they are forced into submission by godless government. Men are forced to relinquish their positions under Christ as head of the household and accept the government as the head, or accept a headless household. This is ungodly, although it has become

politically correct. Thus, we see our society falling apart all around us, and our failure as a people is due to the fact that we refuse to submit ourselves to Christ's authority. By the same token, women refuse to submit themselves to their own husbands. It is spiritual and social suicide.

pg. 4

A god is anyone who makes laws, or is credited with making law. No man, no husband, no lord, no king is authorized by Yahweh to create law. "The law of the husband" is not created by the husband. Rather, it is law that already exists, but becomes applicable to him through a marriage covenant. By agreeing to the covenant, the law is invoked.

pg. 7

No. The struggle is not God's, but man's. The great church myths of supernatural wars in the heavens are invented by pagans.

Bible writers used symbols and metaphors in terms like "heaven" and "earth." "Heaven" represented high powers (governments), and "earth" represented the governed (people under government rule).

However, pagans sought to use the terms literally, so as to fit in with their own myths of capricious gods and supernatural wars.

The truth is that God has never been, and will never be, a victim of his own creation. As Creator of all things – including good and evil – evil cannot afflict God (as in a so-called "Satan" conducting war against Him).

The churches portray God and Satan playing a game of "winner take all," with mankind as their trophy. It is nonsense. Man's struggle with evil is his own, and it is strictly on an earthly level.