

Romans

Bible Class 6

Freed From The Law of Sin And
of Death
Rom 7:1-8:17

Freed From Sin

1. We are dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus Rom 6:1-14
2. We should serve God as slaves of righteousness Rom 6:15-23

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Introduction

- If at baptism, we die to sin, are crucified and buried with Christ, raised to walk in a new life, freed from sin, then why do we still have a problem with sin?
- We are to be slaves of righteousness, sanctified, set apart, to obey God but we still struggle with sin

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Introduction

- Although we are united with Christ, we must continue to crucify the old sinful self with its habitual sinful thoughts, desires and deeds
- Paul elaborates on the inner conflict with sin that continues even after baptism that can only be overcome by remaining in Christ where there is no condemnation

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Freed From The Law of Sin And of Death

1. We have been released from the Law Rom 7:1-6
2. Is the Law sin? Rom 7:7-14
3. The Christian's conflict with sin Rom 7:15-25
4. The gospel has set us free from the law of sin and of death Rom 8:1-4
5. Set your mind on the things of the Spirit, the gospel Rom 8:5-8

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Freed From The Law of Sin And of Death

6. God dwells in us through the gospel Rom 8:9-11
7. By the gospel we must put to death the deeds of the body Rom 8:12-13
8. Led by the gospel we serve as loving children heirs of God Rom 8:14-17

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We have been released from the Law

- Paul speaks to the Jewish Christians who were familiar with the Law of Moses
- As long as one lives, the Law has authority over him but at death, he is released from the Law
- To prove this point, he gives the marriage covenant (law) as an example, where husband and wife are bound together until death

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We have been released from the Law

- Entering a new marriage while the spouse lives is adultery
- This is not God's teaching on marriage in totality but is Paul's illustration of a point regarding how one is lawfully released from the Law of Moses
- Only when the spouse dies is one free to enter into a new marriage covenant

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We have been released from the Law

- The same is true regarding the Law of Moses, one must die before they can be released from the Law of Moses and be married to Christ under the New Covenant, the gospel
- Specifically, how does death release one from the Law of Moses in order to become a Christian?

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The Law of Moses has authority over a person as long as he lives

Rom 7:1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?

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Two are bound together in marriage until death

Rom 7:2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

1Co 7:39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

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To enter a new marriage while the spouse is still living is adultery

Rom 7:3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

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A spouse's death releases the other so they may be married without committing adultery

Rom 7:3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

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The word called meaning a Divine call or warning

1. Act 11:26
2. Heb 11:7

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We have been released from the Law so we may be joined to Christ

- Those who were obligated to obey the Law of Moses died to the Law through Jesus' death (His body) at baptism
- In Jesus' death, He abolished the Law of Moses after fulfilling it so that His New Covenant, the gospel, might be established for both Jews and Gentiles
- Being dead to the Law, we can be joined to Christ to live by the gospel given by the Holy Spirit bearing fruit for God

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We have been released from the Law

Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

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We have been released from the Law

Rom 7:5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

Rom 7:6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

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We have been released from the Law

1. Eph 5:22-27
2. Rom 6:3-7
3. Gal 2:19-20
4. Eph 2:11-16
5. Col 2:11-17
6. Heb 9:15-17
7. Rom 3:19-20
8. Gal 5:16-26
9. 2Co 3:5-6, 17-18

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Is the Law sin?

- If Jews had to be delivered from the Law of Moses to be saved, then some might assert the Law must be sinful, the cause for them sinning
- But, the Law of Moses is good and holy reflecting the will of a holy and just God and revealing the sinfulness of sin
- The Law, sinful desires and sin come together producing spiritual death

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Is the Law sin?

- Satan uses sinful desires to deceive us into thinking we can violate God's law without consequence
- The Law reveals what sin is and condemns all who violate it

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The Law revealed the knowledge of sin

Rom 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

See also Rom 3:19-20

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Through Satan our sinful desires deceive us in breaking the Law producing our death

Rom 7:8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.

Rom 7:9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;

See also Eze 18:18-20

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Through Satan our sinful desires deceive us in breaking the Law producing our death

Rom 7:10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;

Rom 7:11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

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Through Satan our sinful desires deceive us in breaking the Law producing our death

1. Jas 1:13-15
2. Gen 3:1-6
3. 2Co 11:3-4

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The Law is not sinful but reveals the nature of sin and condemns sinners

Rom 7:12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Rom 7:13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

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The Law is not sinful but reveals the nature of sin and condemns sinners

Rom 7:14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

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The Christian's conflict with sin

- In Rom 7:15-25, there is great debate whether Paul is writing about the conflict against sin he experienced before he became a Christian under the Law of Moses or after he had become a Christian
- Whichever case is true, even after we become a Christian, we still struggle each day with a great conflict against sin
- Sinful desires and deeds die hard

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The Christian's conflict with sin

- Unless we continue to fight against sin with the help of Christ, we will be captured and enslaved to sin again even though we have been freed from sin at baptism
- We must each day continue to crucify the old sinful desires, resist temptation and pursue righteousness so that we may be conformed to the image of Jesus
- By His grace, we can continue to be free from sin with the hope of eternal life

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The Christian's conflict with sin

Rom 7:15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

Rom 7:16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.

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The Christian's conflict with sin

Rom 7:17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

Rom 7:19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

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The Christian's conflict with sin

Rom 7:20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

Rom 7:21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

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The Christian's conflict with sin

Rom 7:22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

Rom 7:23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

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The Christian's conflict with sin

1. 1Pe 2:11-12
2. Rom 6:11-18
3. Gal 5:13-18, 24-26
4. Eph 6:10-20

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If we do not fight against sin with Christ's help we will be enslaved to it again

Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

Rom 7:25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

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If we do not fight against sin with Christ's help we will be enslaved to it again

1. Act 8:22-24
2. 2Ti 2:24-26

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The word spirit in Romans 8

- In Romans 8, in order to understand what is written, we must determine how the word spirit is used
- The word spirit is used 21 times in Romans 8
- The word spirit is used in three different ways in Romans 8
- It refers to the Holy Spirit, to the human spirit and a mindset or attitude

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The word spirit in Romans 8

- In the original Greek manuscripts, the words were written in all capital letters
- In our translations, the translators decided on when the word spirit should be capitalized when they believed it referred to the Holy Spirit

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The word spirit in Romans 8

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

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The gospel has set us free from the law of sin and of death

- In Christ, through the gospel revealed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit, there is no condemnation for sin
- In Jesus' sacrifice, God provided the means by which men can be justified, freed from guilt

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The gospel has set us free from the law of sin and of death

- Only through the gospel can we be freed from the law of sin and of death, the law in our members, the sinful fleshly desires, that if obeyed, enslave us to sin causing spiritual death
- We must live by the gospel given by the Holy Spirit and not by the fleshly desires leading to sin

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The gospel has set us free from the law of sin and of death

Rom 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

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The gospel has set us free from the law of sin and of death

Rom 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

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The gospel has set us free from the law of sin and of death

1. Rom 7:23
2. Gal 3:26-27
3. Rom 6:3-4
4. 1Jn 1:7-9
5. 2Co 5:21
6. Heb 2:14-15

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Set your mind on the things of the Spirit, the gospel

- To focus on the things of the world, appealing to our fleshly appetites leading to sin, will produce spiritual death
- To focus on the things above, the things in the gospel, meeting the needs of our spirit, forgiveness of sins and becoming like Jesus, will lead to life and peace
- If we serve the sinful desires of the flesh, we are God's enemies

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Set your mind on the things of the Spirit, the gospel

Rom 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

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Set your mind on the things of the Spirit, the gospel

Rom 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

Rom 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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Set your mind on the things of the Spirit, the gospel

1. Php 3:18-19
2. Col 3:1-3
3. Eph 4:22-24
4. Jas 4:1-4

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God dwells in us through the gospel

- In verses 9-11, Paul describes Christians who are living in the Spirit rather than living in the flesh
- To live in the flesh means we are governed by the law of sin and of death, serving self and Satan instead of God and others
- To live in the Spirit means we are governed by the gospel, the law of the Spirit of life

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God dwells in us through the gospel

- When Paul speaks of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit dwelling in the Christian, he is describing the close union that exists as we live in harmony with the gospel
- Deity dwells, abides, in us and we in Deity as the gospel abides in us
- Understanding how Christ dwells in us will explain how the Father and the Holy Spirit dwell in us

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God dwells in us through the gospel

Rom 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Rom 8:10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

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God dwells in us through the gospel

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

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God dwells in us through the gospel

1. Joh 14:23
2. 1Jn 2:24
3. Eph 3:16-17
4. Gal 2:20
5. Eph 5:17-19
6. Col 3:16
7. Joh 3:5, 1Pe 1:23
8. Joh 6:63
9. Gal 5:16-18, 25, 2Jn 1:6
10. Gal 5:22-23, Col 1:5-6
11. Rev 22:17, 2Th 2:14

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By the gospel we must put to death the deeds of the body

Rom 8:12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--

Rom 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

See also Eph 4:20-32

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Led by the gospel we serve as loving children heirs of God

- Through Christ, as we obey the gospel, we have become adopted children of God
- We serve Him as loving sons rather than out of paralyzing fear
- The Holy Spirit through the gospel bears witness along with our spirit that we have become and are living as children of God

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Led by the gospel we serve as loving children heirs of God

- Because we are Christians, Abraham spiritual descendants through Jesus, we are heirs of God
- If we suffer with Jesus in this life, we will one day be glorified with Him for eternity

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Led by the gospel we serve as loving children heirs of God

Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

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Led by the gospel we serve as loving children heirs of God

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,
Rom 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

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Led by the gospel we serve as loving children heirs of God

1. Gal 4:4-7
2. Gal 3:26-29
3. 1Jn 3:1-3, 4:17-21, 5:3
4. 2Co 5:14-15
5. Joh 8:16-17
6. 1Jn 5:10-13
1. 2Ti 3:16-17
7. 1Jn 4:1-2, 6
8. 2Ti 2:11-13
9. 1Pe 4:12-16

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