**Romans Series April 30, 2023**

**Believers are United in Christ - Romans 7:1-13**

1. God’s Law Applies to Everyone **as Long as They Live** Romans 7:1-3

* While living, God’s laws apply to every person for the duration of their lives
	+ There is no release from the law until death
	+ We simply need to be careful that the Laws that are insisted upon are what God has decreed
		- No Legalism!
* The marriage illustration makes clear that a legal marriage is only in-force as long as the husband and wife are both living
	+ At the death of one spouse, the other is free to remarry
	+ The illustration is not meant as a commentary on divorce – other passages in the NT speak to the times when divorce is permissible

2. Believers are United to **Christ to be Fruitful** Romans 7:4

* The Law has no power over the Christian because Christ has taken punishment upon Himself
* “Bear fruit for God”
	+ Attitude: demonstrated by the fruit of the Spirit
	(Galatians 5:22-23)
	+ Actions: demonstrated by reproducing new Christians
	(John 15:1-2)

3. Believers Live **by the Spirit** Romans 7:5-6

* Before Christ, we were:
	+ “in the flesh” – governed by sin nature / passions
	+ “aroused by the Law” – willful disobedience
	+ “bear fruit for death” – those who live without faith in Jesus Christ will be given the just penalty for their “fruit”
* In Christ, believers have been released from the penalty of the Law
	+ We now live to serve God by the newness of life that He has given to us
		- It is the Spirit of God which causes a person to have new life (see Titus 3:5)

4. The Law Reveals Sin **to Everyone** Romans 7:7-11

* The Law’s purpose is to expose sin
	+ Illustration: “You shall not covet” (Exodus 20:17)
		- This makes us aware of a sin so that it can be avoided or if committed, then drawn to God for forgiveness

5. The Law Reveals **the Extent of Sin** Romans 7:12-13

* God’s laws and His commandments are holy, righteous and good
	+ The Law can never be sinful
	+ Psalm 19:7–9
	7 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;
	The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.
	8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
	The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.
	 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
	The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

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