**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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