

## Law School

### Key Scriptures

**Romans 7:1-6** <sup>NET</sup> Or do you not know, brothers and sisters (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law is lord over a person as long as he lives?

<sup>2</sup> For a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of the marriage.

<sup>3</sup> So then, if she is joined to another man while her husband is alive, she will be called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she is joined to another man, she is not an adulteress.

<sup>4</sup> So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you could be joined to another, to the one who was raised from the dead, to bear fruit to God.

<sup>5</sup> For when we were in the flesh, the sinful desires, aroused by the law, were active in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

<sup>6</sup> But now we have been released from the law, because we have died to what controlled us, so that we may serve in the new life of the Spirit and not under the old written code.

**Key Point:** The believer under grace looks at the law, not for detailed instructions for living, but for a general picture of the character of God.

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What were some of the rules you were taught in your religious upbringing?

**Start thinking.** Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- In Paul's analogy with marriage, who were you married to originally (v. 4)? How did that marriage work out?
- What is the connection between the law and sin? (How does the law reveal sin? Arouse sin?)
- Both verses 4 & 5 refer to fruit. How would you compare and contrast those different fruit?
- In light of v. 6 and "the old written code," read **2 Corinthians 3:5-8**. How does Paul describe the law in this passage? Is this how you would expect him to speak of the Law?

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Two errors that churches and Christians can make is to become either legalistic (lots of man made rules), or libertine (abusing freedom). Assuming that you don't have a perfect balance, which tendency do you typically have to watch out for—liberty or legalism?
- What is the appeal of churches/leaders who give their members/followers long lists of "do's and don'ts"?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Going back through Romans 6 and 7:1-6, what are the truths Paul lists about you because you are in union with Christ? Rehearse these often!

**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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