

Romans 7:1-6: Obedience From Love

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7:1 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? **2** For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. **3** Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. **5** For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. **6** But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Which "Law" do you look to in order to measure yourself most comprehensively?

Examples: spiritual faithfulness, financial security, pleasing others, pleasing yourself, success at work, affirmation at home, doing the right thing, etc.

Follow up: Why do you think this particular "Law" has such power in your life?
How might it be dangerous?

2. Can you point to a time in your life when you were loved well by someone else? If so, what stands out to you about that moment?
3. How has your love for someone else (spouse, child, friend, parent, etc.) "constrained" you in life? Has this constraint made you resentful or joyful? Why?
4. How should your love for God constrain you moving forward? In other words, what are new areas of obedience that you hope love produces in you?
5. Is it hard for you to believe that God loves you as much as He says He does? Why do you think this is so hard for us to remember and trust?