

Series: Seeing **how** Jesus is your salvation will stir your love for him.

BY GRACE YOU'VE DIED TO THE COMMANDMENTS' CONDEMNATION
AND ARE MARRIED TO CHRIST TO BEAR FRUIT FOR GOD.

Setting the context:

- 1/ The Gospel is an announcement to which we respond. *Rom 1*
- 2/ Salvation is more than personal forgiveness; it's being removed from the reign of sin to the born-again reign of Christ.
Rom 1.5; 16.26; 6.1-11
- 3/ Justification (*acquittal before God*) is rooted in the past, applied in the present, but focused on God' future judgment. *Rom 5.1-11*

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Romans 7 <sup>4</sup> 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.** <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> **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.

You've not only been released from the law as a means of justification, **you've also been released from the law as a means of sanctification** (growing is by faith too!).

**ONE: Every day you will either live to the law or you will live to Christ.**

Don't live by the law: it always points to judgment

Whether using general or biblical revelation by religion men and women try to be justified and sanctified by the law. But we don't live up even to our own standards. Law always condemns.

7.7 The law leads me to knowledge of sin; 7.8 The law arouses/provokes sin; 7.10 The law (a holy sign-post) leads to death not live: *all of this because* of our indwelling sin.

**TWO: Understand your internal warfare: believers still struggle with the power of the law and its condemnation. Romans 7.5, 25b**

Understanding 7.13ff:

**How can someone who is a Christian say 14b and 25b:** *I am unspiritual/carnal sold unto sin; but in the sinful nature/flesh a slave to sin?* **How can any non-Christian say 22a; 24-25a?:** *In my inner being I delight in God's law (Psalm 119; Psa 1); 24-25a What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Do believers (growing in grace) have surviving sin, conflict with sin: **SADLY, YES, YES, YES**

Do those who are believing live content, complacent, with reigning sin: **NO , NO, NO, may it never be.**

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- 1. How does offering Jesus to people merely as one who can help their loneliness, grief, marriage, etc., put them in danger of living to the law and not to Christ, even if they "accept Christ" and the gospel?
- 2. Why do the apostles so often present assurance of judgment and only then call men and women to repentance and forgiveness? E.g., Acts 2.36-37; 17.29-31.
- 3. How does seeing that our salvation and forgiveness are tied to becoming part of a new reign stir us away from complacency and allowing our bodies to be used to sin (see Col. 1-13-14 for a parallel to Rom 7.4-6)?
- 4. You new mind is alive to God to bear fruit for him! This week don't put "quiet time" or "prayer" in your schedule; schedule a meeting with "God." Sing praises to him. Listen to him in his Word. Use these means of grace to take control of you mind and take every thought captive (2 Cor 11.5 in context). When tempted run to Jesus and meditate and sing with him.