

Romans 7:1-13

February 16, 2022

Let's look back at the various classes of people we've seen in Romans:

Sinful man and rejecting God's testimony through creation (Chapter 1)

The **self-righteous Jew** presuming on God's favor (2:1-11, 17-28)

The **Gentile** without the law but accountable to his conscience (2:12-16)

Chapter 3 demonstrates that none of these can achieve righteousness. But beginning in 3:11, a new righteousness through Jesus Christ is introduced and we see a new people, those **saved through faith in Christ Jesus**.

But the problem of holiness before God is not quite solved. Chapter 6 told us to count ourselves dead to sin and not present ourselves to opportunities to sin.

Now in Chapter 7 we encounter another class: Those who **seek holiness by making the law a rule of life**. They are saved and they are sincere but they struggle. Scofield calls them redeemed but not renewed. 1 Cor. 3:1 calls them not spiritual but worldly – infants in Christ. Many Christians feel the wretchedness expressed in verse 24. Are you one?

Questions:

1. Verse 1 looks back to 6:14, "You are not under law but under grace." What releases us from the authority of the law?
2. The apostle seems to be saying that death has set us free from the law. Whose death?
3. In the figure, the woman who remarries after her husband's death is not an adulteress. Who is the new "husband" of the Christian who has died to the law?

4. Does the law (or a law) make us sin or keep us from sinning?

5. How does the law bring death (verse 9)?

6. Verses 10 and 13 seem to give opposite statements of whether the law leads to death. But the phrasing is somewhat different: Verse 10 says (more or less) literally: The commandment which was for life was found, in regard to me, to be for death. Verse 13 affirms that the commandment is good and by no means has *become* death to me. Putting these together with verse 11, what can we say about the law and death?

7. With few exceptions, Christians do not follow the law of Moses in the same way an Orthodox Jew would. How do Christians practically put themselves under the law as a rule of life?