

December 8/9, 2012

The Gospel Story: Remarried

A Study of Romans

Romans 7:1-13

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Opening Discussion

1. Do you think legalism causes people to sin less or sin more? Why?
2. Are rules, convictions and disciplines always evidence of legalism? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think so many Christians still want to mix some “law” with their new life under grace?

Bible Study

1. Review what you learned in Romans 6. What were the main points?
2. What does Paul mean when he says “you are not under law but under grace” in Romans 6:14?
3. Read Romans 7:1-3. It’s important to remember the illustration is just that, an illustration. It’s not an allegory where all the parts of the illustration represent exactly the truth he’s trying to communicate. In very simple terms, what is the point of the illustration of marriage?
4. Read Romans 7:4-6. First notice how the language corresponds to the illustration in verses 2, 3. What has to happen if we are to marry Christ (under grace)? Can you be married to both husbands at the same time? Why or why not?
5. What does Paul mean when he says, “the sinful passions which were aroused by the law?” How does the law (legalism) actually arouse sinful passions? If what defines you “in Adam” is you are operating as your own god, how are you likely to respond when you are told to do or not do something? Do you think legalism promotes righteousness or rebellion?

6. Romans 7:6 hints at what will be the discussion in Romans 8. For now it's good to at least file away this idea that what the letter of the law (legalism) could not do for us the Spirit of Christ does do for us.

7. Read Romans 7:7-13. Is the law bad or evil? How does "sin" use the law to create a beachhead in our lives to destroy us? Could this be why people in our culture today are so opposed to the Bible? What happens to someone who really thinks he or she is "good" but his or her goodness is shattered in the mirror of God's standard? Is that person likely to appreciate having that goodness illusion shattered?

8. What is necessary for sin to once again become sinful? Is the law at that point good or bad? According to this text, is the law then good or bad? Why?

Application

1. What does it look like to be married to both the law and grace? How does one go about assessing that in his or her own life? Do you have two husbands?

2. Rules, convictions and standards can either be a result of an attempt to make one righteous or because someone is righteous and wants to live that way. What's the difference? Which is it for you? How do you know that?

3. Which "husband" you focus on daily will define how you view yourself which will define then how you live. How do you view yourself on a daily basis? Do you see a struggling sinner defined by shame and guilt or do you see someone alive in God passionate for righteousness? According to Romans, which is the correct view?