

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Good News > Temporal Blessings > Illustration from Marriage
Romans 7:1-6

In chapter seven, Paul continues his discussion of the relationship between sin, the law and the new way of life in the Spirit by faith in Jesus. He is answering the doctrine of antinomianism, that is, the belief that since God has set us free from the law, we can sin as much as we like without consequence.

Picture	Passage	Point
Image of baptism	6:1-14	While we were yet dead to God and unable to save ourselves, God put our old nature to death with Christ on the cross, atoning for our sins and raising us up with Him to life with God.
Image of slavery	6:15-23	We are freed from the tyranny of sin to obey God leading to eternal life. We can now choose our master by obedience and that choice leads to consequences (sin => death, God => gift of eternal life)
Image of marriage	7:1-6	We have died to the law so that we can be united to Christ in a new relationship.

We've seen that while we were yet sinners by nature and helpless to change that, God demonstrated His love (and sovereignty in salvation) by crucifying our old natures with Christ and raising us to new life in service to God (first half of chapter six, vv. 1-14). We now have a choice to go back to our old master, sin, or serve God. Paul appeals to logic in answering the question of should a Christian continue in sin even in a casual relationship by reminding us of the meager wages of sin that cost more than they pay and of the riches of eternal life and all the blessings that come with it because of serving God (second half of chapter six, vv. 15-23).

Paul now gives us the third picture in his explanation of why we should no longer serve sin despite being freed from the law. This picture is one of marriage and how death changes everything in that relationship.

1. Marriage illustration presented (vv. 1-3)

2. Marriage illustration applied (vv. 4-6)