

## Romans 7:1-12

### 1. **Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?**

#### A. **Or do you not know**

1. **or-** this is a connective word to the last verse in the last chapter. The wages of sin is death. The law clearly taught that the wages of sin was death.
2. **do you not know-** what they were ignorant of is what happens after death. What does death mean?
  - a. upon death there is a severance of relationships
    1. The marriage bond is severed upon death.
    2. The last chapter focused on that our relationship with the power of sin is severed at death. IE. there are no drunkards in a graveyard!
    3. This chapter will reveal that we have been severed from relationship with the law and its penalty by death.

#### B. **brethren (for I speak to those who know the law)**

1. **brethren-** This could refer to Jewish brothers, but also probably gentile believers who had received instruction on the Old Testament.
2. We need to be taught the Old and New Testaments. One is the foundation for the other. Once you understand the Gospel you can understand the true nature of the Old Covenant and see Jesus in every page! The Law was a shadow of the Person to come who would fulfill it, which is Jesus Christ. [Col. 2:17]

#### C. **The law has dominion over a man as long as he lives.**

1. Those who took the yoke of the Torah as a young teenager were bound to it until their death.
2. Those who broke the Law [which were everyone who undertook to keep it] were guilty of death. Death was the penalty for broken Law. That is why animal sacrifices were instituted so the death penalty could be exacted.
  - a. Today we do not understand the gravity of sin. We say we are sorry and try to atone for our sins by repentance or good works. This may be a popular religious teaching on dealing with sin, but God reveals clearly that the only proper payment for sin is DEATH. The shedding of blood [the loss of life] is the only means of redemption and forgiveness for sin.
  - b. Most Christians are taught that the sin of a Christian is forgiven by confession of that sin. God has never forgiven sin by this means. The only way sins have been dealt with and forgiven is the by the shedding of blood in death of an innocent substitute. [Heb. 9:22-

This verse in Hebrews proves that confession can't bring forgiveness of sins!] Only the shedding of blood can bring forgiveness and Christ did that once for all. God only forgives on the basis of the blood economy and nothing else. Jesus paid for every sin of mankind past, present, and future through His shed blood. All our sins were future tense when Jesus died! If Jesus did not die for future sins, then you are still in your sins and are lost! However, He did die for future sins! Once we accept Christ and believe upon Him as Lord then we are forgiven once for all.

c. The law has dominion over a person until they die. Paul states in Romans 6:12 that sin no longer has dominion over us for we are not under the Law. We were freed from the dominion of sin and the law by death in our representative Jesus!

3. We all know the famous saying, "The only thing that is certain is death and taxes." Although this saying is true, it is equally true also that death ends taxes! Death trumps everything! The government of law ends with your death! The Law cannot reach past the grave to rule over you.

**2. For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband.**

**A. For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives**

1. **woman-** Gr. **gune-** There is one Greek word for woman and wife. It is this word "**gune**". You have to determine by context which is meant. Here it is clear that it should be translated as wife. In the passages that many denominations use for women not teaching the Greek word should be translated as wives and not women by rule of context.

2. **husband-** Gr. **hupandros-** *under a man [husband]*. There is one Greek word for man and husband which is the Greek word "**aner**". Again context will determine which translation is proper. Here it is correctly translated as husband. Why translate it here as husband and use the term woman instead of wife?

**B. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.**

1. **released-** Gr. **katargeo-** *to cause to cease, put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish*

a. Paul is using a natural example of the cessation of the natural relationship of marriage upon death to teach about our spiritual relationship with the law also ending with death.

**3. So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law,**

**so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.**

**A. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress.**

1. **marries-** Gr. **ginomai-** *comes into being to.*

a. This is not the normal word to marry. That would be "**gameo**".

This is the only place ginomai is translated as marry.

b. Paul uses this word ginomai to show that our freedom from the Law and new union with Christ comes into being as a new creation. This is not something we make happen like a natural marriage but it comes into being by the power and will of God Himself.

2. **she shall be called-** Gr. **chrematizo-** *to receive a name or title*

2. **adulteress-** Gr. **moichalis**

**B. but if her husband dies, she is free from that law**

1. **free-** Gr. **eleutheros**

**C. so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.**

1. Paul brings this out in order to show that our union with Christ is in full accordance with what is right and legal. God caused the union to law to cease legally so our union with Christ would also be legal.

**4. Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.**

**A. Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law**

1. **you also-** Paul is now applying the previous example of a marriage in which the husband dies which frees the wife. However, the person in this verse who dies changes from the husband to the wife. Instead of the law dying, God causes us to die! We are the one who was married to the law and then death freed us from the old relationship to the Law.

a. The Law cannot die. It is eternal because it is from God. It could not die only be fulfilled. Once it was fulfilled in Christ it was set aside.

2. **have become dead to the law**

a. We died to the law through the person of Jesus, the fulfillment of the law.

**B. through the body of Christ**

1. Jesus Christ's body was the essence and substance of the shadow of the Old Covenant. [Col. 2:17]

2. Jesus fulfilled all the Law in His bodily life and fulfilled all the sacrifices in His bodily death on the cross.

3. Jesus died under the penalty of broken law in our behalf and paid it's price to the full. Once He died the Law had no more claims on Him.

Since He died as our representative, the Law has no longer any claims on us as well! Both sin [chapter 6] and the law [chapter 7] have no longer any claims or authority over us. We now are free to live from union with the resurrected Christ and bear fruit from His life within us!

**C. that you may be married to another- to Him raised from the dead**

1. **may be married-** Gr. **ginomai-** *to come to be; come into a new relationship or state.*
2. **to Him raised from the dead-** We are called to a higher relationship than that with sin and the law. These are merely fleshly relationships. We are called to a much higher spiritual relationship with the resurrected and exalted Lord Jesus Christ. We have been raised with Him and were made to be seated with Him in the Heavenly realms! [Eph. 2:6] We are now in spiritual union with Christ and His Spirit. [1 Cor. 6:17]

**D. that we should bear fruit unto God**

1. **should bear fruit**

- a. **should-** We should bear fruit but many do not or if they do then not much.
- b. **bear fruit-** Gr. **karpophoreo**
- c. We are called to bear fruit not labor to produce for God. [Gal. 5:22-23]
- d. Christ is the vine, we are the branches. The branch cannot produce of itself. Only by drawing from the vine can the branch bear fruit. The same is with us and Christ. [John 15:5]
- e. Every Christian is ordained. Christ said that He ordained us to bear fruit. [John 15:16] This is the call and purpose of our ordination in Christ- to bear fruit.
- f. Christ ordained us to bear fruit, more fruit, and much fruit. [John 15:2,5] This comes progressively by abiding in the Word and praying in the Spirit day after day.

**5. For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.**

**A. For when we were in the flesh**

1. **in the flesh-** This means that we were dead spiritually and under the dominion of the body of sin.
2. In the flesh also refers to being governed by natural rites and rules instead of spiritual principles of faith and love.
3. When we were born again we no longer or in the flesh. We are now in the spirit. [Rom. 8:9] This means are spirit is made alive unto God and our spirit is dominated by the life of God. Now we have a choice as a Christian to walk "according to the flesh" or "according to the Spirit". If

we are born again we are always "in" the Spirit, but it is possible to still walk "according to the flesh". We learn to walk "according to the Spirit" by renewing our minds to our new identity in Christ and being empowered by praying in the Spirit.

#### **B. the sinful passions which were aroused by the law**

1. Sin is aroused by the presence of law. Sin as a allergic reaction to the law. Sin at it's root is rebellion so when law is introduced sin will show it's true colors by rebelling. That is why Paul said earlier that by the law is the knowledge of sin. [[Rom. 3:20](#)]
2. The strength of sin is the law. [[1 Cor. 15:56](#)] Religion teaches the strength of sin is Marti Gras, movie theaters, short skirts, dancing, and Hollywood. Paul says that the strength of sin is the law! The law is not evil or bad, but it just incites the rebellion of sin that is already in our flesh.
3. The more we try to live up to God's standards by our soul power, the rebellion of sin in our flesh will rise up and cast us in the dust. We cannot overcome by soul power but by Spirit power!
4. The law was given not to justify us but to show us the incurable rebellion that is within us and our dead state because of it. The law was also given as a shadow of Christ who was to come to fulfill it. Once we see our true state before God we then can believe upon Christ and be born again and receive His nature and Spirit within us that will cause us to be able to dominate the body of sin and walk according to the spirit and not the flesh.

#### **C. were at work in our members**

1. Paul repeats over and over "our members". This again is referring to the principle of sin that resided in our natural body. Our body is not evil! What is in our body is evil, which is sin! This principle of sin will continue to reside in our physical bodies until death. If we live just natural lives and especially under the law, sin will dominate us. If we walk in who we are in Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit we will dominate our flesh.
2. Some teach that there is nothing left in us anymore that draws us to sin but a unrenewed mind. They teach that if you just renewed your mind totally you would have nothing in you that would draw you to sin. Not one person in church history including the Apostle Paul renewed their mind then! Because even Paul who was given the revelation of grace and two thirds of the New Testament said that he had to keep under his body! [[1 Cor. 9:27](#)] He did not say he had to keep under his unrenewed mind! He knew sin was always present in his body to exert itself against his soul if he allowed it. This idea that we have nothing left in us that draws us to sin but a unrenewed mind is just not biblical. I agree that

there is not two natures in your spirit, one good and the other evil, vying for control. You are a spirit and your spirit is born again and righteous. That is your nature! However, you live in a body that has sin residing in it that will work against your soul to commit sins. [Rom. 7:23, 1 Peter 2:11]

3. We overcome the flesh by renewing our minds by the Word but also receiving Spirit power by praying in the Spirit.

#### D. to bear fruit unto death

1. We can bear fruit unto God or unto death. We will do one or the other. We cannot opt out of fruit bearing. We can however opt out of fruit bearing to death and start bearing fruit unto God. It comes by meditating on New Covenant truth and by praying in the Spirit.
2. Even Christians who are alive to God and are in the Spirit can and do bear fruit unto death. They have death working in their relationships, finances, health, work, and emotions. This even can lead to premature physical death. They do this by living according to the flesh. We don't have to live this way! The unsaved have no option than to bear fruit unto death because they are dead! We however are alive and we can and should bear fruit unto God by our union with Christ within us.

#### 6. **But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.**

##### A. **But now we have been delivered from the law**

1. **But now**- In this present dispensation of grace and now that we are born again.
2. **delivered**- Gr. *katargeo*- *to render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative; to cause a person or thing to have no further efficiency; to cause to cease, put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish; to be severed from, separated from, discharged from, loosed from any one; to terminate all intercourse with one.*
3. Paul is probably addressing more Gentiles in Rome than Jews. If the Gentiles were never under the law then how could these verses concerning the law apply to them? It applies in the fact that the Gentiles are held guilty and condemned with all the world because when the Jews were taken out of the world as a test sample of humanity, they failed miserably in the test tube of the law. Once the Jews failed miserably in the test tube of the law and were condemned, so was all of humanity. [Romans 3:20] Now that the the law was abolished in the death of Jesus for all humanity, the Gentiles and Jews now have free access to God's blessing and favor through faith. The middle wall of partition between God and man, and between Jew and Gentile has now

been removed, which was the law. [Eph. 2:14]

**B. having died to what were held by**

1. This is how we were legally and permanently separated from the law. It was by death. Both sin and the law lose their legal jurisdiction over a person upon death. When an unbeliever dies they are free from sin and the law, but are still held by death because of the lack of life. Christ came and died our death, but had the power and life in Himself to raise from the dead and walk free. If we believe upon Christ this resurrection life is given to us in the new birth and we come out of death into life!
2. How did we die to the law? It was in the person of Jesus Christ Who was the covenant representative for mankind. Whatever He did, it happened to humanity. When He died we died in Him as our representative. When He fulfilled the law He did it for us. When He died to the Law it was for us. Those who accept Christ and enter into Him share all that belongs to Christ including being dead to sin and the law.
3. What does it mean we are delivered from the law and that we are now dead to it? It means we are no longer to have any intercourse with it. Once a marriage has legally ended then all intercourse between the parties should cease as well! However, this is not the case with many Christians. Even though the legal relationship has been severed with the Law, many are still having intercourse with the law and are only producing death and condemnation for themselves. Being dead to the law means that we forsake the old system of trying to merit the favor and blessing of God by our own performance and merits. We instead trust in Christ and rest in His perfect performance and merits to receive the favor and blessing from God and the power of His Spirit to live holy. We got saved by grace through faith and we are to continue in the same principle that we got saved with! [Col. 2:6; Gal. 6:15-16, Phil. 3:16]

**C. so we should serve in newness of spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.**

1. **serve**- Gr. **douleo**- *serve as a bond servant*
2. **newness**- Gr. **kainotes**- *new in quality or substance differing from neos- new in time.*
  - a. The introduction of the Spirit brings a whole new quality and substance to our lives than was under law. The Spirit and law are two opposite systems which produce different effects. Grace brings people close to God, the law separates people. Grace justifies people, the law condemns people. Life under the Spirit is lived by faith in God's grace, and life under the law is lived under self effort.
3. **spirit**- Gr. **pneuma**- This can refer to the Holy Spirit or the born again

human spirit. One can usually interpret which one is meant by context. Where it is not dictated by context you can translate it as either one because the Spirit of God is now in union with our reborn human spirit. [1 Cor. 6:17] We serve God now with our reborn spirit through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is done by faith. Mediating on the New Covenant truths based upon the finished work of Christ will stimulate faith. Praying in the Holy Ghost is building yourself up on your most holy faith. [Jude 20] The nature, power, and resources of God has been deposited within our reborn spirit. We must now acknowledge every good thing in us in Christ for our faith to be effective in our lives. [Philemon 6]

4. **oldness-** Gr. **palaiotes-** *that which is worn out, tattered, and obsolete.*
  - a. The law has been worn out! Mankind has battered the law with their corruptness. They have so broken the law that it has itself been broken down and is now made obsolete by Christ fulfilling it in His perfect life and perfect death. It has been moved out of the way to make room for the newness of the Spirit/spirit.
  - b. The old law has served its purpose to get humanity prepared to receive the Seed of Abraham and have the Abrahamic Covenant fully realized by the giving of the Holy Spirit into reborn hearts. [Gal. 3:13-14]
  - c. We are to forsake the old way of living which is trying to merit God's favor and blessings by our own performance and holiness. We are to cast these aside to receive God's own righteousness and holiness in the person of His Son- Jesus Christ by faith. We now bear the fruit of holiness by the grafting of the nature of Christ within us.
5. **of the letter-** The law was an external code of right and wrong that offered proper knowledge of God's will but offered absolutely no help or power to keep it or even power to desire to keep it. The ministry of the Spirit is different. Not only does the Spirit bring the knowledge of God's will but also supplies a power plant resident within the believer to empower them not only keep it but desire to do so! [Phil. 2:13]

**7. What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."**

**A. What shall we say then?**

1. People often do not hear what you say and make you say what you did not say! In chapter 3-5 Paul makes a case that we are not justified by our works but by grace, and then someone in the audience jumps up

and shouts- "Then are you saying we can go live in sin and God does not care?"

2. In this chapter Paul is showing that the law, the old way of living, has been done away with because it was fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus, Who was the the substance of the Law. As our representative when Jesus died to sin and the law so did we! Now, someone in the audience jumps up and shouts, "Well then are you saying the Law is sin!" It is amazing how some people are so dumb and are still breathing!

**B. Certainly not!**- Gr. **me ginomai**- *may it never come into existence!*

1. Whenever Paul uses this phrase "me ginomai" he uses in vain because in each place it is used it has come into being! Paul used this phrase when he said may it never come into being that sinning may be excused so that grace would abound. [Romans 6:1] This teaching has been in the church from very early on beginning with the Nicholaitians onward to today.
2. This verse has also come into existence today because certain "grace" teachers are now teaching the the law is evil and sin. Wow!

**C. On the contrary**

1. It is on the contrary that the law is sin. It is actually holy!

**D. I would have not known sin except through the Law**

1. **known**- Gr. **ginosko**- *a growing experiential knowing of a truth or person*
2. It is a good thing that the holy Law gave the true knowledge of sin- [Rom. 3:10]
3. Until there is law to break you cannot truly realize you are a rebel until you find yourself wanting to and actually breaking the laws.
4. The law gave occasion for rebellion in the flesh to rise up and be brought out in full sight for all to see, except for those who outwardly put on a good show and let their rebellion out in the dark and in secret! Legalism will always bring rebellion and the worst is the kind that hides and is done in darkness while parading outwardly as righteousness. This kind of life brought the censures from Jesus in His earthly ministry.

**E. For I would have not know covetousness unless the law said, "You shall not covet".**

1. **covetousness/covet**- Gr. **epithumia**- *desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust*
2. This was the command that tripped up Saul of Tarsus and the rich young ruler. They both lived outwardly blameless lives that no one could condemn. However, this is the only one of the ten commandments that deal with the heart instead of the actions. This command more than any others shows up the fallen condition of man's

heart! All the other commands speak of outward actions and the forbidding of evil doings. However, this tenth command says that man shall not even want to do evil. This command went from the actions of man to the "want to" of man. This command got Saul of Tarsus! He outwardly could perform the right actions but he could not make himself stop desiring the wrong things! He could not stop desiring the glory of man and the glory that belonged only to God. God's law said that he was not allowed to have evil desires but this command Paul could not control even with his amazing will power. Although he broke this command it was hidden out of sight to other people and so he could proudly say "according to the righteousness of the law I was blameless!" [Phil. 3:6]

2. What is wrong with man is not only his actions but his heart and it's desires. The fallen human heart is desperately wicked and it's desires are twisted. [Jer. 17:9] The fallen human heart cannot work right, desire right, or have a right motive. It is wicked [twisted]. The law brought out the wickedness of the human heart. The Law was perfectly straight and showed up the wickedness and twisted nature of man like nothing else could.
3. In the New Covenant God gives us a heart transplant and works in us by His grace to work in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. [Phil. 2:13] This is not by soul power, but by Spirit power and by the working of His grace!

## 8. **But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.**

### A. **But sin**

1. Paul had an amazingly strong will that allowed him to control his outward actions almost perfectly, but he still had the principle of sin working in his fleshly members like all other humans. He could not control his heart from having evil desires lurking within it however.

### B. **taking opportunity by the commandment**

1. **opportunity**- Gr. *aphorme*- *a place from which a movement or attack is made, a base of operations*- The law is the base of operations for sin to wage war upon our soul. [1 Peter 2:11, Rom. 7:23]
  - a. Sin is an opportunist. Whatever opportunity we afford sin, sin will take it and capitalize on it! The greatest opportunity for sin to operate is not when they are at a bar or alone with their girlfriend in a darkened apartment. Although, I would strongly warn you about setting yourself up in places like this. The greatest opportunity for sin however is when a person submits their selves to live under law!

- b. The strength of sin is the law! [1 Cor. 15:56] Living under law is living under a code of laws that basically forbids all acts of rebellion. Sin at its core is rebellion. Sin resides in the flesh of all living humans. When law is introduced then sin [rebellion] will rise to meet it every time! Sin always has an allergic reaction to law. Sin only has one cure. It is death! Jesus brought us the cure when He died as our representative 2000 years ago! If we will reckon on that fact and live out of our new created spirit by faith we will see victory over sin.

**C. produced in me all manner of evil desire**

1. **produced-** Gr. *katergazomai*- *to work something from the inside to the outside*
  - a. The law's purpose was to bring the evil hidden in the heart of man out to the outside where it could be seen. The law brings out man's rebellion so that the person who can't stop rebelling can know there is a problem within them. The Law then was a schoolmaster to teach about Christ and His sacrificial work for them on the cross. [Gal. 3:24]
  - b. The law will cause rebellion to rise up. Test this! Find a bunch of kids playing and then tell them they can't do something like spit on a certain flower. Then go and hide and watch! You will see this for yourself! Half of the kids will go right over and spit on a flower they never realized even existed! The other half will stare at it salivating wishing they had the gumption to go spit on it. The law produces -brings up to the surface- rebellion.

**D. for apart from the law sin was dead.**

1. This does not mean sin was not in man or that man did not sin before the law. [Rom. 5:13] It means that without the law sin was relatively inactive because without laws rebellion had nothing to rebel at. When the law was introduced then sin had an allergic reaction to it and produced visible rebellions and transgressions. Before the law came sin was relatively dormant because rebellion had no rules to rebel against!
2. This is one of the problems we have in our churches today unfortunately. We preach the free grace of God to people so they will get born again. We tell them that all their sins have been paid for and forgiven and all they have to do to receive that in their life is to believe. We tell them the blessing of heaven is theirs for free and it has nothing to do with their performance or personal holiness. We tell them actually trusting in your goodness can hinder you from receiving this gift! This is good news! We don't preach the law to people to get them saved. However, in a majority of churches once someone gets saved by grace through faith they are then given laws to keep to find or maintain God's favor and blessings as a Christian. Before they were saved they were

not under the law, but after they get saved then well meaning pastors and fellow Christians put laws on them and they end up struggling much more with things they did not even struggle with as an unbeliever! The blessings and favor of God before salvation and after salvation are by the free grace of God through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ! Trusting in our good works will be a hindrance to receiving them even after we are saved!

3. What set the sinner free was grace through faith. What will keep a Christian free is grace through faith. We are to continue living in Christ the same way we received Christ! [Col. 2:6]

**9. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.**

**A. I was alive once without the law**

1. This refers to the time before Paul took the yoke of the Torah at his bar mitzvah. When all children are born they are born with their spirit alive unto God. God is the Father of spirits. [Heb. 12:9] God does not make dead spirits! No! God is the author of life, not death. When God creates a spirit in a baby it is alive. It has to become dead later.
2. This does not mean that every baby does not have the principle of sin in them. The sin principle that came from Adam is passed from every father to their children both male and female. This sin principle is passed on through the blood. The blood comes from the father and not the mother. The blood of Jesus was from his Father and not tainted by his earthly mother. Acts says that the church was purchased by God's own blood! [Acts 20:28] Life is in the blood and the blood of man has been tainted with sin from Adam downward. [Lev. 17:11]
3. So a baby is born alive unto God in their spirit, but has sin in their members. Because the sin principle is in the body, it is a forgone conclusion that all people will and do sin. A baby is sinful from the beginning. They are selfish from the beginning. You don't have to teach a child to do wrong! A child will gravitate towards that right away because of sin in their members. However, until they reach the age of accountability it will not affect their spirit.
4. Children are alive in their spirits until the age of accountability. When they sin after that point their spirit dies and is cut off from God.
5. Children who die before the age of accountability [this age differs from person to person I believe] will go to heaven and not hell. That is why David said about his child who died after his sin to Bathsheba that he would go to be with him but he [the child] would not return to him [David]. [2 Sam. 12:23]

**B. But when the commandment came**

1. That is when Saul of Tarsus took upon himself the yoke of the Torah and acknowledged right and wrong and his pledge to live by it. This was at the age of thirteen.
2. The singular commandment here is the command not to covet.

### C. **sin revived and I died**

#### 1. **sin revived**

- a. Sin was in the bodily members of Saul. When the Law was introduced to Saul then rebellion [sin] in his members came alive and then when Saul sinned he died. So every person inherits sin by birth but also becomes a sinner by choice! Both are true! We cannot blame Adam alone for our being cut off from God. We also made a choice to rebel against God just like Adam. Stop judging Adam! You are no different than him!

#### 2. **and I died**

- a. How did Saul of Tarsus die? Did he die physically? Well no of course not, unless he died and then was raised from the dead! No, he did not die physically. If he did not die physically then how did he die?
- b. Saul died spiritually! His spirit that was alive at birth died and was cut off from God. If he would have died at that point he would have gone to hell and not Paradise.
- c. If Saul was born with a dead spirit cut off from God like many teach then how did he die after the commandment came because it would have already been dead?

### 10. **And the commandment, which *was to bring life*, I found to *bring death*.**

#### A. **And the commandment, which was to bring life**

##### 1. **commandment** -Gr. **entole**- *an order, command, charge, precept, injunction*

- a. Paul uses the singular word commandment. He will show us which commandment killed him which was the tenth commandment- thou shalt not covet. This command he could not keep and he rebelled against it and was cut off spiritually from God.
- b. The law could only bring out man's rebellion. The law was called a ministry of condemnation and death! [2 Cor. 3:7,9]

##### 2. **which was to bring life**

- a. The law is good and holy. That is why living under the law is so alluring to sinful man. They think that since the Law is good and holy, that it can make them good and holy and give them immortality-eternal life. This is what the religious Jews were seeking by keeping the law. [See Rom. 2:7] This never worked because of the sinful nature of man. The only thing the law could do was to reveal how bad and unholy they were! The law is a perfect standard and mirror

of God's glory. In this mirror it can only show up what is already present. In the mirror of the law man could see God's glory but also their utter perversity and depravity! The Law could not help man be good and holy. The law offered no help in keeping it. The law must be kept by a persons inherent goodness and ability and sinful man could not offer either!

#### **B. I found to bring death**

1. Does Paul refer here to his physical death?
2. Again if Saul of Tarsus was born dead unto God [dead spiritually] then how did the law bring death to him. He was not put to death physically. How do we know that? Because he was here writing the book of Romans. He was alive physically!
3. The commandment brought spiritual death to Saul of Tarsus. He became a sinner in his identity [his spirit] although he was already had sin in him by physical birth.
4. **found-** Gr. **heurisko-** *we get the English word eurika from this!*
  - a. When we die we will be either be "found a dead sinner in Adam" or found "alive and righteous in Christ". [[Phil. 3:9](#)]

#### **11. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.**

A. **occasion-** Gr. **aphorme-** *base of operations*. Sin will always use the law as a base of operations in the life of one that tries to use it go gain life.

B. **deceived-** Gr. *seduce wholly: beguile, deceive*.

1. Sin will completely deceive and hoodwink a religious person when they try to use the Law to gain acceptance with God. Religious people are the most deceived people on the planet while they point their fingers at all the "sinners" out there who they think are deceived. Jesus called religious people blind. [[John 9:41](#)]
2. The Law is so appealing to the flesh. What is appealing to the flesh is achievement. The Law looks so promising at helping you get a leg up on everyone else with God if you can out perform others.
3. The flesh looks at the Law and says, "I can do this!" However, soon it becomes very apparent that the flesh cannot do this! Ancient Israel said we can do this when God introduced the Law but soon found out they could not even keep the first commandment and made a molten calf!
4. The Law promises life if you can keep it completely and consistently. [[Rom. 10:5](#)] However if you break even one command you have broken all of it. [[James 2:10](#)] The flesh is deceived into thinking it can keep the law but it's own goodness.

#### **C. and by it killed me**

1. Notice the words Paul uses about his prior life as a religious Jew. He

said when the commandment came he **DIED**. He then said that he found that the law brought **DEATH**. Here he said a third time that it **KILLED** him.

2. Is Paul using these terms figuratively? I think not. If he is using them literally then we know he can't mean it killed him physically because he was writing this letter to them in a physical body. If this is literal, then how did he die? He died spiritually! If he died spiritually when the Law was introduced to him, then he must have been alive before he died. Is that too simple? What does this mean? It means that before the Law was introduced to Saul of Tarsus his spirit was alive unto God and when he sinned after the Law was introduced to him his spirit died and was separated from God.

## 12. Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

### A. The Law is holy

1. Some are teaching that God's law is not holy.

### B. and the commandment holy and good

1. **commandment**- Paul is referring to the commandment- "thou shalt not covet". This is the command that killed him. That commandment is a holy and good. It is not evil and bad as some grace preachers today would tell you. It is holy and good but how this command is to be fulfilled is what is vital. If it is attempted to be kept by soul power then it will kill you! If you fulfill it by faith in Christ having fulfilled it and the power of the Holy Spirit living love out through you then it can be kept.
2. **good**- Gr. **agathos**- *intrinsic good, divine good as opposed to kalos-outwardly good*.

### C. The Law is good if it is lawfully used! [1 Tim. 1:8]

1. Notice Paul in the above verse says the Law is good if it is used lawfully. This means that there is a lawful use of the Law and an unlawful use in God's eyes!
2. First the Law was not made for a righteous person. It was made for sinners! [1 Tim. 1:9] This means the law is not for saved people! It is for the unsaved! We get it backwards. We preach grace to the sinners and law to the saints! Now it is good to preach grace to both but one must realize they are a sinner before they can be saved by grace. If someone refuses to believe they are a sinner, then use the standard of the law against their life and they will soon see their need of a Savior!
3. The Law was made to show sinners their true sinful nature and to teach about the Savior Jesus Christ and lead people to Him. [Rom. 3:10; Gal. 3:24-25]
4. Any other use of the Law than this is **UNLAWFUL** in God's eyes and will

produce the sentence of death!

5. I humbly say that many of the pastors in the world are using the Law **UNLAWFULLY!** They are committing spiritual crimes against God's people when they preach the commands of the law to the saints and tell them they have to keep the law to be accepted and blessed by God! There should be a spiritual jailhouse for religious preachers! Let's stick with teaching grace to the saints and they will surely live saintly lives!