

In the Book of Romans chapter six, we see how through the death of Christ God provides deliverance from the power of sin, and the image used to illustrate it is that of a master and his slave.

The Apostle Paul then goes on in chapter seven to show how Christians have been delivered also from the Law, as a means of obtaining righteousness, and the picture used to illustrate the point is that of a husband and wife.

In Paul's illustration, there is only one woman, representing the believer, but there are two husbands. One of these is the Law, by which he means a covenant of works, and the other husband is Christ.

Now the woman is completely unsuitable for this first husband and cannot give him any satisfaction. But the problem lies with her and not him. He is perfect and therefore makes demands upon her, demands that are legitimate, but she is completely unable to carry them out.

What is the solution? To marry the other Man, of course. However, for her to marry Christ, the first husband must first die. But God's Law can never die or pass away, it is eternal.

Therefore, it is the woman who must die, if the first marriage is to be dissolved. And this is exactly how God delivered us from the Law:

In the same way, my friends, you 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.

(Romans 7:4-5)

The exact same principle operates in our deliverance from the Law as in our deliverance from sin. Sin still exists, but it has no power over a dead person. In the same way, the Law still exists and still makes demands, but such demands are binding on a person only as long as he lives; they cannot go beyond the grave! Obviously, this does not mean that once married to Christ we can go and do our own thing. On the contrary, Paul finishes up by saying:

But now we are discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we are slaves not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

(Romans 7:6-7)