

## How Do We Then Live?

### Week 5 - Romans 7:1-6

? What was a silly or seemingly odd rule in your household growing up?

#### Objectives:

- Discuss how the metaphor of marriage applies to our former relationship with the law and our new relationship with Christ.
- Reflect on what it means and looks like to be released from the law and serve God “in the new way of the Spirit.”

**Verse 4 is the center of this section and clearly states the main takeaway: we have died to the law through the body of Christ and now belong to him.**

#### The Authority of the Law

##### Romans 7:1-3 NIV

Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives? <sup>2</sup> For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him. <sup>3</sup> So then, if she has sexual relations with another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress if she marries another man.

? Why does Paul use the allegory of a marriage to convey his point? What does it reveal about our relationship to the law?

? What is the primary purpose of verses 2-3?

## Freed from the Law, Bound to Christ!

### Romans 7:4-6 NIV

<sup>4</sup> So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. <sup>5</sup> For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. <sup>6</sup> But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

? What was the purpose of the law?

? Why did we need to be freed from the law?

? Does being freed from the law mean that we will be without sin? How do we deal with the tension between being sinners and being justified?

## For Discussion and Accountability

? What was God telling you through this passage this week? What did you need to hear?

? What are ways that you have been living as if you were still bound to the law? What does it mean for you now to be free from the law and unified with Christ?

? What do you think it looks like for you to “serve in the new way of the Spirit?” How can we come alongside you in this?