

Romans

Life isn't about waiting for
the storm to pass, it's about
learning to dance in the rain.



SPRINKLES

are for

CUPCAKES

not for


TOILETS

©Lulu

LIVE

LAUGH

LOVE



....and *they* lived
Happily ever after

This Week's Sermon

"The True Happily Ever After"

Romans 7:1-6

Recap of Romans 6!

1. Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? *By no means!*
2. Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? *By no means!*

Romans 7:1-6

Or do you not know, brothers – for I am speaking to those who know the law – that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? 2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

Romans 7:1-6

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also 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. 5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Today's Passage

1. What Is The Marriage Analogy?
2. The Gospel is Rescue
3. The True Happily Ever After

What is the Marriage Analogy?

Romans 7:1

Or do you not know, brothers – for I am speaking to those who know the law – that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? 2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

The law did what?!

Romans 5:20 - "Now the law came in to increase the trespass..."

Romans 6:14 - "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."

Romans 7:5 - "For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death."

Romans 7:4

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also 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.

The Marriage Analogy

2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

Romans 7:4

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ **[First Husband]**, so that you may belong to another, to him **[Second Husband]** who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

The Marriage Analogy

2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies **[Jesus - united to us under the law]** she is released from the law of marriage 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man **[Jesus - united to Christ in the NEW covenant]** she is not an adulteress.

Romans 7:4

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also 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.

But, Wait...I Didn't *Die!*

Romans 6:3-4

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:5-8

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Galatians 2:19-20

19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The Gospel is Rescue

The Gospel Is Rescue

5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.



Seinfeld

“Probably the central story of our culture – which I think has replaced a lot of the religious stories that used to be at the heart of our culture – is the story of progress.

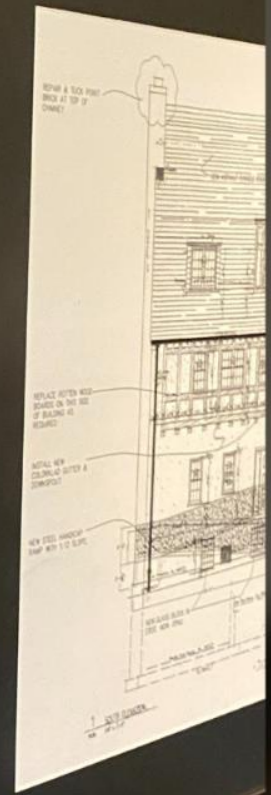
What we say is: it is possible, through human ingenuity, to create a utopia...And so we have this story that we believe in which everything continues to get better every generation, and our job is to keep that process going...I think once you believe that, then you are stuck in a very linear narrative. You are unable to see, you are unable to learn much from the past on your own, and you are probably unable to learn much from the mistakes of the present as well.”

-Interview with Paul Kingsnorth, <https://emergencemagazine.org/interview/the-myth-of-progress/>











The New Has Come

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

“Usually when we hear about progress, it is something to hustle for. You must get on its side, invest early, or be left behind. But in Christianity, everything has been given; anyone who wants it can have it...The catch is, we earn none of it, and we would all prefer to earn. We would all prefer to fight toward progress rather than accept it, when it comes to us, as a gift.

“As Archibald MacLeish once wrote, *“The world was always yours; you would not take it.”* To take it, in this case, as experience shows, we have to be stripped of pretense, give up our crusades for control. We have to get kicked in the butt. Real progress, in other words, often feels like regress. Not something you hustle for, but something you fall into.”

-C.J. Green, Mockingbird, <https://mbird.com/philosophy/god-of-progress-slow-it-down/>

The True Happily Ever After



“Tolkien explained to Lewis that the story of Christ was the true myth at the very heart of history and at the very root of reality. Whereas the pagan myths were manifestations of God expressing Himself through the minds of poets, using the images of their "mythopoeia" to reveal fragments of His eternal truth, the true myth of Christ was a manifestation of God expressing Himself through Himself, with Himself, and in Himself. God, in the Incarnation, had revealed Himself as the ultimate poet who was creating reality, the true poem or true myth, in His own image. Thus, in a divinely inspired paradox, myth was revealed as the ultimate realism.”

-Joseph Pearce, J.R.R. Tolkien, *Truth and Myth*

“The consolation of fairy-stories, the joy of the happy ending: or more correctly of the good catastrophe, the sudden joyous “turn” (for there is no true end to any fairy-tale): this joy, which is one of the things which fairy-stories can produce supremely well, is not essentially “escapist,” nor “fugitive.” In its fairy-tale — or otherworld — setting, it is a sudden and miraculous grace: never to be counted on to recur. It does not deny the existence of dyscatastrophe, of sorrow and failure: the possibility of these is necessary to the joy of deliverance; it denies (in the face of much evidence, if you will) universal final defeat and in so far is evangelium, giving a fleeting glimpse of Joy, Joy beyond the walls of the world, poignant as grief.

Why Does Paul Use the Marriage Analogy?

Genesis 2:21-25

21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 Then the man said,
“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and
hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And
the man and his wife were both naked and were not
ashamed.

Isaiah 54:5

5 For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.

Isaiah 62:3-4a

3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;

Isaiah 62:4b-5

for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

5 For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.



“It is by far the most amazing miracle of the entire Bible -- far more amazing than the resurrection and even more amazing than the creation of the universe. The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe.”

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Revelation 19:7-8

7 Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

8 it was granted her to clothe herself

with fine linen, bright and pure” —

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And I concluded by saying that the Resurrection was the greatest 'eucatastrophe' possible in the greatest Fairy Story -- and produces that essential emotion: Christian joy which produces tears because it is qualitatively so like sorrow, because it comes from those places where Joy and Sorrow are at one, reconciled, as selfishness and altruism are lost in Love.

Of course I do not mean that the Gospels tell what is only a fairy-story; but I do mean very strongly that they do tell a fairy-story: the greatest. Man the story-teller would have to be redeemed in a manner consonant with his nature: by a moving story.

Gospel Response

Do you belong to the Risen Jesus?

Rejoice in the Rescue