

Romans 7:1-25  
“Unchain Me”

~ INTRO. ~

NOW...

- In (Rom 6) Paul taught the church about *sanctification*.
  - So the church might grasp...
    - The power we have as Christian – in Christ.

HE WROTE...

- To new Christian's in Rome... with a Jewish background...
  - And covered *Sanctification* = (Greek #38) *hagi-as-mos*
    - Meaning holiness or separation.
- And we learned that SIN should no longer control us...
  - Because we're not under law (Rom. 6:14) NKJV

God Separates Us:<sup>1</sup>

- 1) God **has** separated the believer from the **penalty of sin**.
  - **Justified**... a once-for-all positional holiness in Christ.
- 2) God **is** separating the believer from the **power of sin**.
  - He does this by guiding us to maturity in practical holiness
    - As we obey His word – **sanctification**.
- 3) God **will** separate believers from the **presence of sin (glorification)**
  - One day believers will receive a glorified body...
    - Which is a permanent holiness – sin nature gone!

SO... JUST UNDERSTAND...

- That our union with Christ **identifies us with**...
  - His Death (Rom. 6:2)
  - His Resurrection (Rom. 6:5)
    - And results in freedom from sin (Rom. 6:7)
- We've been liberated from sin (Rom. 6:18) NKJV.

IDEA #1 – JOINED TO CHRIST

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<sup>1</sup> Summary Definition of *sanctification* sourced from Got Questions Ministries on 05/16/25 from <https://www.gotquestions.org/sanctification.html>

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(v.1) *Brethren (those who know the law)* = The Jews.

- The Mosaic Law held power over a Jew as long as he lived.
  - The law controlled them.

IN (vv.2-3)...

- He uses an illustration of marriage...
  - Showing how God freed man from the law thru death.

(v.4) The **Application**:

- 1) We're **dead to the law** and can be married to another.

The Law of Moses governed man's actions & relationships.

- It was *performance based* – with do's & don'ts.

HOWEVER... THE SANCTIFYING EFFECT...

- Is all about stopping my efforts to “earn” God's love...
  - And start enjoying the gift of God's love...
    - Found in... His grace!
- 2) Because of this new marriage MY loyalty switches.
  - From external observances to a relational rest.
    - [Again from law TO grace.]

FOR YOU SIMPLE-MINDED PEOPLE...

- Paul's NOT saying...
  - You're free to live a reckless immoral life.
- **He's saying** you're married to Christ...
  - **And you're to honor that relationship...**
    - By turning away from being a slave to sin.

IN MARRIAGE...

- Two people must walk in the same direction.
  - If you don't it's a disaster.

(Hosea 2:16) NLT

“... you will call Me my husband instead of My master.”  
[Intimate relationship (vs.) Rules and regulations].

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MANY PEOPLE HAVE A HARD TIME WITH GOD...

- Because they're trying to relate to Him...
  - In the wrong way – *under law... do's & don'ts*.

(v.5) BEFORE WE IDENTIFIED WITH JESUS...

- Our sinful nature was aroused by the law to do wrong...
  - The do's & don't stirred up opposition in us.

THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THIS...

- Every time the Government says they're going to...
  - Restrict guns... Smith & Wesson has their best year.
    - (You create a law & people rebel against it.)

SO TOO...

- When we try relating to God... by being good...
  - We place ourselves underneath a hopeless burden...
    - We can never move.

SANCTIFICATION IN CHRIST...

- Is NOT about learning do's & don't...
  - It's about knowing HIM so you won't.
- It's about surrender... followed by rest.
  - We willingly enjoy pleasing Him (i.e. following Him).

(v.6) SUMMARIZES (vv.1-5)

- By saying we've been delivered...
  - And the point of the deliverance is...
    - “*we should serve*” = Willingly love Him.

**IDEA #2 – THE STRUGGLE IS REAL**

THERE'S A LOT TO SHARE...

- But the overview of these verses is simple.

THE STRUGGLE WITH SIN...

- Is exhausting when we try to relate to God by being good enough.
  - Paul recognized an exhausting internal-struggle.
    - He wanted to do good... but struggled.

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- In his mind he wanted to do God’s will...
  - But in his humanity... he continued to fail.
    - (v.14) He knew the law was spiritual...
      - But it had no answer to his carnal nature.

(vv.16-17)

This is NOT a passage to excuse bad behavior (the devil made me do it).

- It’s the wrestling of two natures...
  - (The Spirit vs. The Flesh)

BATTLING SIN IN THE POWER OF SELF NEVER WORKS.

- Learn to feed your new nature... NOT breed the old one.
  - (Gal. 5:16) NKJV
    - (2 Cor. 10:3-5) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

(v.24) NLT

JOHN MACARTHUR IN HIS COMMENTARY ON (Rom. 7:24) <sup>2</sup>

- Records an ancient Tribe found in Tarsus (where Paul was from)...
  - That punished convicted murderers...
    - By chaining the victims-dead-body to the back...
      - Of the murderer.
- The punishment of the decaying body...
  - Would slowly rot & infect the murderer...
    - Who would ultimately die from infection...
      - As they carried the body of death around.

(v.25) PAUL FOUND THE ANSWER...

- (1 Cor. 15:56-57) NLT

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<sup>2</sup> Source needed from John MacArthur Commentary on (Rom. 7:24). AI search completed on 05/24/2025 for generic results: [Body of death Tarsus murderer](#).