



Law, Marriage, Adultery

- *Romans 7*
 - J. Vernon McGee calls it a chapter divided into two subjects
 - ‘The Shackles (chains, irons) of a Saved Soul’ – *Rom 7:1-14*
 - ‘The Struggle of a Saved Soul’ – *Rom 7:15-24*
 - Important questions
 - What has preceded *Romans 7*?
 - Is the order to the chapters of the book of *Romans* important?
 - What follows *Romans 7*?
 - Do we have to go through *Romans 7*?
 - Why not just skip to *Romans 8*?



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- *Romans 7:1* – Darby “*Are ye ignorant, brethren, (for I speak to those knowing law,) that law rules over a man as long as he lives?*”
 - Interpret ‘*ignorant*’ – *agnoeō*
 - *not to know* (through lack of information or intelligence); by implication to *ignore* (through disinclination):- (be) ignorant, not know, not understand, unknown.- Strong's
 - What *brethren*?
 - ‘*those knowing law*’
 - *nomos* - from *nemo* (to parcel out, especially food or grazing to animals); *law* (through the idea of prescriptive *usage*), general (*regulation*), special (of Moses [including the volume]; also of the Gospel), or figurative (a *principle*):- law. - Strong's
 - Are these brethren necessarily converted Jews or could they also be converted Gentiles?



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- ‘*that law rules*’
 - Now ‘*the Law*’ rules ‘*over a man*’
 - have dominion over, lord, be lord of, exercise lordship over. - Strong's
 - ILG - ‘*lords it over the person*’
 - *man* – *anthropos*, human being (male or female)
 - ‘*as long as he lives*’
 - *chronos* - of uncertain derivative; a space of time, in general, and thus properly distinguished from
 - » *kairos* which designates a fixed or special occasion; and from
 - » *aion* which denotes a particular period or interval
- *Romans 7:2 – NKJV “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”.*
 - ILG – *married woman*



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- *is bound* – perfect passive indicative
 - *to the living husband* – literally
- ‘*but if the husband be dead*’
 - Third class condition, a supposable case
- ‘*she is released from the law of her husband*’
 - Again, perfect passive indicative
 - Made void!
 - *Gen 2:24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”*
 - *1Cor 7:39 - “A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”*



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- Are there exceptions?
 - Adultery - *Matt 19:3-9* “.....And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”
 - *Romans 7:3 – NKJV* “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.”
 - Where should the emphasis in this verse be placed?
 - Let’s take a peak at *Rom 7:4* “Therefore, my brethren, you also have become **dead** to the law through the body of Christ, that



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- *you may be married to another, to Him who was raised from the **dead**, that we should bear fruit to God.”*
- The Jewish Law about adultery – *Num 5:11-31* (jealousy offering), *Deut 22:22-24* (unto death) , *Mark 10:2-12* (Christ reiterates Jewish Law).
 - And the principle of **Grace**, even related to adultery, is revealed by the Lord Jesus Christ – examine the setting
 - *John 8:3-11 “...When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”*
 - **Notice how this practical application of a fundamental law about a domestic relationship shows that only death can break a legal bond.**



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- How might this *Romans* passage be misinterpreted?
- Is it relevant to anyone but the Jewish believer?
- Why should we keep this simple?
- **Let's not dwell here but move on to verse 4!**