

*Bearing Fruit to God*  
*Romans 7:1-13*

*"I have been set free from the law because it could never make me righteous. I have been set free from the law only to be married to another, even unto Jesus Christ, to be joined unto Him. The life that I now live is a life of bearing fruit, but the fruit of the believer's life is actually in many cases living by even a stricter standard than even the law would require. "For the love of Christ constrains me," Paul said. For the love of Christ I would not do that which would cause a weaker brother to stumble. For Christ's sake, married to Christ, joined now unto Christ in this new relationship with God in the new covenant through Jesus Christ does not mean that I am free to indulge in my flesh. Far from it. It means that I am bound now by even a greater law, the law of love. The law of love for Jesus Christ." Chuck Smith*

- I. Paul uses the analogy of marriage to deepen our awareness of the legal obligation we have to the one we are united to until death do us part. Unbelievers are married to the law because of sin. The only way for an unbeliever to be free from the authority of the law, is for him or her to die to the law through Christ so that he or she may be permanently united to him to bear his fruit of righteousness.

Rom. 7:1-4

Rom. 2:14-16

Gal. 5:16-18, 22-25

**Gal. 2:19-21** *For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.*

- II. There is a distinct contrast between what we were before salvation and what we are now. Before salvation we were under the unrelenting, ever persistent control of the flesh (sin nature), which bore **fruit to death**. Upon salvation, we left the control of flesh and its passions aroused by the law, to serve in the power of the Holy Spirit's influence so that we might bear the **life-giving fruit of righteousness**.

Rom. 7:5-6

Rom. 8:5-9

**σάρξ *sárx*** = *the flesh, denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God.*

*"Up to this point I have been stressing what Paul himself has been stressing: that if we have been saved by God through the work of Jesus Christ, we must (and will) live differently. I have said that if we are not living differently, if we are simply continuing to sin as before, we are not Christians, regardless of our outward profession...the fruit of conversion must be seen in our lives." Boice*

- III. The law came from God to convict mankind of his sin. It can't justify or sanctify anyone, only Jesus can do that. The law's purpose is to reveal sin for what it is, sin. It shows how strong sin is through its desire to rebel in ever increasing measure against God's holy, righteous and good law. *"It is only when the law has exposed our true nature to us, showing how bad we are, that we become open to the gospel." Boice*

Rom. 7:7-13

**2 Cor. 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*