

Title: Real Frustration
Text Chapter 7

Will you take your Bibles, please, and open them to Romans chapter 7. Three chapters in Romans really set out the terms of victory. It is kind of like Christian liberty in the book of 1 Corinthians. When the Bible says that there are two things necessary- one is knowledge and the other is love. And a lot of us don't set out to know any thing ..therefore we can never apply it. This is much like the ~~these~~ chapters in Romans. People assume that they know them. But not knowing them carefully, they never apply them.

Paul is talking about himself in this chapter. He uses the personal pronoun "I". 47 times in this one chapter. It is the key to understanding this chapter. And the point is that every believer will experience Romans 7. Now, if you haven't so far, then I have good news for you. You will. It is going to come to you. And most believers experience it quite often.

Now, in chapter 7 we are talking about OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW. And it is a very difficult chapter in some sections. I will try to do my best in explaining it. But there are some very common illustrations in very day life that I hope to share with you that perhaps will help make this chapter come to life for you.

Let's Look to the Lord in a moment of Prayer as we begin.

I want to begin with the first 6 verses of Chapter 7. We will read them and then we will seek their meaning. And in these verse we have an illustration of marriage. And this becomes very important in our understanding of our relationship to the Law. But let me explain for a moment before we begin reading. Many new believers experience the problem we have been talking about in Chapter 6 of Romans. And that is the problem of sin controlling you. And consequentlly when you see this sin in your life, and it becomes evident and you are worried about it, you either doubt your salvation, or you decide to do something, yourself, to correct it. *then*

Now, one of the unquic ways that Christians use to correct the problem of sin in their life, which never works, but they try it anyway, is the manner of applying the law, to their life.

Now, the law has many do's and don'ts. And there are people who create "do's" and "don'ts". That are not in the Bible. But the Bible does have some "dos" and some "don'ts". And what it says to do we ought to do. And what it says to don't we ought to "don't"(HA).

So, you see, we understand that the law is good. There is nothing wrong with it. And what it says is the truth.

Now, some folks have taken that law and tried to check sin in there life And have discovered the results of Romans 7..TOTALL FRUSTRATION.

As a matter of fact, we are going to learn, soon, that the more law and the more Word of God that you get into your life, the more sinful you are going to feel. And I am going to show you that in a moment. You many wander WHY? And that of course is the point of the message. And I certainly don't want to share that with you, now. I will tell you later.

O.K. let's look at the first six verses. THE ILLUSTRATION IS MARRIAGE.

(Read 7:1-6)

Now, there are two things that I would like you to see in these verses.

(1) Number one, in the first three verses there is an explanation. An explanation about our relationship to the law using the illustration of ~~my~~ marriage. Then (2) secondly, we will look at the application in verses 4-6.

Now, first, under the explanation there are two things that he is saying there in those first three verses.

(1) Number one deals with the duration of the law over your life and over mine. And by the illustration of marriage how long does it endure? Only to the point that death occurs.

Now, when death occurs, the law had no more jurisdiction. In the case of marriage when the husband dies, the wife is no longer under the bondage of that relationship. Death brings it to an end.

(2) Now, the second thing that he is saying is that the delieverence from that law is complete to the point of remarriage. That is very important.

~~Because a lot of christian's understanding they are dead to the law, do not understand that you are married, now, to Christ~~

Because a lot of Christian's understanding they are dead to the law, do not understand that you are married, now, to Christ which has its implication in the way we live and what we believe and what we trust.

You see, that wife is not only separated from the law of her husband when he dies, but she is also free to be married again.

Now, that is the explanation. Now, let's look at the application in verses 4 thru 6. There are four things that I would like you to see here.

(1) First of all, in Verse four he gives us the principle that takes us back to chapter 6. A principle that takes us back to chapter 6.

Ms 4 starts out , "Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the law through the body of Christ."

Now, how are we, dear friends, dead to the law? Turn back to Romans 6 verse 3. It says, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"

Now, look at Vs 6.."Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should not longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin."

Vs 8.."Now if we have died with Christ.".....

Vs 10.."For the death that He died....."

Vs 11..."Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin."

So, according to Romans 6, we died to sin when we believed in Jesus Christ. Romans 7 says, "You have, also, become died to the law,."

There is one thing that the law asks of all who offend it. If you offend in one point of the law, James 2:10 says that you are guilty of all of it. Whether one sin, one lie, or a thousand, the penalty is death. The soul that sins shall die.

Now, when Jesus died on the cross, he satisfied the entire penalty of the law for all people. Every person must die who has offended the law, When Christ died, the Bible teaches, that he satisfied the demands of the law for all people. In other words, you could go out today and in one hundred different times offend the law. And if you are a believer in Christ, the law has no effect over you what so ever.

Because every offence which demands death has already been taken care of by the death of Jesus Christ. When you believe that as a christian you are dead to the law. The law has no holds over you what soever.

So, just like in the case of marriage, when the husband dies the death brings to an end that bondage. When you became a Christian you died to the law by the death of Christ which satisfied the laws demand. No one can do anything else about it. No matter if there are a thousand offences against you. Christ has already paid the penalty for all people. It is done. It is finished. You cannot add to it. You cannot take away from it.

So, you are dead to the law. But you are also free to be married to Jesus Christ.

(2) Now, the second thing that I want you to see is at the end of Verse 4 and that is the purpose for all of this. Why have you died to the law in order that you maybe married to Christ? The purpose is: last phrase of Vs 4: "that we might bear fruit for God."

Now, the word "bear" is the word for "conception." You are being married to Christ. WHY?..So that you can conceive children. You can bring forth fruit.

And this is a very important principle. Because a lot of us never discover this. We know that we are dead to the law. Free from the bondage that we had before. But we don't understand our marriage to Christ. We develop frustration by ~~try~~ trying to make the law check sin instead of letting Christ live his life through us in a marriage relationship.

Now, listen carefully. When you get married to Christ it is as though the sperm of Christ, the male, is incepting in the female, the body of christ, a birth, a conception, and you bring forth fruit. Meaning: new people in Christ. In other words, dear friends, it is letting Christ live His life in you. Not you in yourself trying to live it for him. You cannot do.

You see, with out the male the female cannot produce children. That is what the Bible is trying to tell us. You must let Christ live his life in your. The reason we are married to Christ is so that we can conceive. We will be fruitful. We will be effective christians..WHY? Because of the life of Christ in us.....

(3) Now, a third thing. In Vs 5 Paul remains ~~of~~ us of the past. According to Vs 5, "For while we were in the flesh." That is not speaking of a believer. It is talking about being in the flesh by way of a position. That is an unbeliever. He is reminding you of what it means to be someone who is not a Christian. "The sinful passions, which were aroused by the law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death."

Now, when you were married to the law and you were in the flesh as an unbeliever in sinning, the law demanded death. That is the baby that is born by that marriage. If you want just to try to do the best you can, in order to get to heaven, you had better think twice. Because the baby that will be born of that marriage is death. Separation from God for ever. If you believe that you will go to heaven by your good deeds, you had better think again. Because the product of that marriage is death.

And when you believe in Christ you die to the law of death because Christ has satisfied the demand. Now, you have become married to Christ. So, don't go back to the law and try to live by it. You will discover that the first time you try it you will fail. And you will get frustrated. Which is what Romans 7 is all about.

(4) Now, the fourth thing is in Verse 6. He reminds us of the present life of the believer. He says in Vs 6, the last phrase, "So that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter."

The word "letter" here referring to the law.

Now, the word "new" and "old" here is not chronologically "new" and "old." It is referring to the difference between "New" as "fresh", and "old" as "worn out". And so the idea here is that as a Christian you are now delivered from the law. WHY THEN WOULD YOU SERVE AS A HABIT OF LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN IN THE OLDNESS." That which is worn-out. That which is decaying and leads to death. Why would you serve as a believer in that? And not in the freshness of the Holy Spirit of God?

What is the problem? What makes the Christian think that he can in his own strength do what God wants him to do? The answer is that we have an old sin nature that wants to..

We want to do what God wants us to do in our own strength. We want to prove it to someone else, or to ourselves, or to God. That we can live the christian life. That we can check sin. That we can and will not become as bad as someone we know. That we will be better than someone else that we know. And the old sin nature is always trying to do this.

Have you ever watched little children play? Have you ever watched Jr. Highers play? I have been working with them on Wednesday night. And I have seen many beautiful examples of Romans 7. Unbelievable. Everyone trying to do what they want to do and can't. And the things that they don't want to do they are doing. And many times they become totally frustration to the point that they yell at one another. And they are yelling and screaming at one another. And finally I can't take it anymore and I yell: "STOP IT".

And they turn to me and say, "What is the matter?"

I said, "I can't stand all this yelling. Why are you mad at each other?" And they say, "We are not mad at anything." What do you mean that you are not mad. You are yelling and screaming. Let's just play the game."

And then they start in. "Well, he did so and so. He hit me first. He pulled my hair, and on and on it goes.

Have you ever noticed that among kids? Certainly not among adults, but among kids...

We have so many illustration from life about this that it is sort of funny.

What makes us keep on with it? Why don't we come to the place of victory? Because, dear friends, we have an old sin nature that is continually wanting to keep on with it.

Romans 7 is trying to wipe us out. You may not like the message, but it is trying to wipe us out. To the point that we can discover that until we come to the bottom of the barrel, as it were, till we come to the last ditch hope, and we have to turn to Christ and say, "I can't do it." THAT IS WHEN GOD WILL SHOW US WHAT VICTORY IS ALL ABOUT. But, as long as that old sin nature is in control and you let it think that it can handle everything, we will never have victory

(Could Stop Here)

Now, let's look at Vs 7 thru 14 at the instruction that the Law gives to us. Your first conclusion would be: will, listen, it looks like the law is bad, it is sinful. NO, IT IS NOT. It has a definite reason though.

Now, let's read these verses....(READ Vs 7-14)

Now, dear friends, this is a tough portion of scripture. ^{But} Let me give you a simple illustration of this section before I give you four principles.

Here is a simple illustration: It comes from the only illustrations that I know to be effective. And that is my own! And it comes from one of my children when they were little: ^{Suzanne - actually, it is true of all four kids} ^{But for sake of illustration - I will pick Suzanne}

I learned that all my children at an early age liked cookies. They all just loved cookies. Now, is there anything wrong with a child eating cookies? ^{Suzanne} ~~She~~ ^{she} didn't think so. ~~They~~ ^{she} loved cookies. And Shirley would bake hundreds of cookies and put them in a little bowl on the kitchen table. She would put them right in the center of the table. And ~~these~~ ^{this} little ~~ones~~ ^{daughter} of mine ~~would~~ soon learned how to move chairs so that ~~they~~ ^{she} could ~~climb~~ climb up on the table and get those cookies. I mean..it ~~was~~ ^{was} great to watch. And there is nothing wrong with that, is there?

Then the law came along.....(ha) You see? Before the law there was no sin. I mean ~~she~~ ^{she} was really having a ball. What is wrong with eating a few cookies? But, then the law came. ~~Her~~ ^{her} mother said to ~~him~~ ^{her}, "now, look ~~Betty~~ ^{Suzanne}, I don't want you to get into those cookies. You know, you will spoly your dinner, and all those adult excuses. So, stay out of those cookies or else". And the "or else" is spelled out in great detail.

Now, do you believe, dear friends, that that stop ~~his~~ ^{her} desire to eat a cookie? NO WAY!!! That little kid starts working over time...She is going to work hard to get those cookies.....

Now, we might smile at this. But that is what Paul is saying here in this passage. When the law came, do you know what happened? Man I really found out what it was like to be sinful. And now I want it all the more. So, my little daughter is working over time trying to figure out how to get those cookies.

~~And I shall never forget - one day - I walked~~
~~on the table~~

And I shall never forget the day that I walked in on Suzanne. There she was up on the kitchen table . She had one cookie in her mouth . And she was reaching into the jar for another cookie. And I saw that and I just couldn't resist. And I said "SUZANNE"...And she just screamed. And threw the cookies into the air. It was great.

But do you know why she screamed? She was afraid of the consequences. That is why. And she started crying. And I hadn't said anything to her yet.

Now, you see, that is the way the law is. The law says that there are consequences. People are afraid of it. But, does that stop their desire, their lust to sin? Are you kidding! Paul say that that brings it on. Of course it brings it on. Eating all those cookies didn't bother her a bit. But now it is law. And brother you talk about frustration for a little tiny 3 year old.

The same thing is true on the adult level. And that is all that verse 7 thru 14 is trying to tell us. Do you know why God is making it so rough on you? Because he wants to show you how sinful you are.

Do you know when a person wants to receive christ? One of the fundamental reasons why a lot of people don't. Or, they make a wrong decision, or don't really come through, is because they haven't seen how sinful they are. And they don't want to accept it.

And the same thing is true about a believer. We don't get real victory as we have described in the Bible which seems to be just for super saints, because the average person doesn't seem to get it, so we look at all of that and we know we are sinning, And what makes us keep going on? Why the old sin nature that doesn't want to admit what God is saying in Romans 7. And that is that we are totally incapable, totally helpless, totally sinful. And God brings along the law. And the Word of God gets pumped into our brains until we realize how bad we are. I can save you the time. The more you study the Bible, the more sinful you are going to understand yourself. That is what Paul is saying in Romans 7.

Listen, he is saying, before the law came, I didn't understand it. But now, I know how sinful I really am. DO YOU KNOW THAT?

Listen, you have got to come to that place. You may be a believer in Christ, but you are not going to experience victory in Christ until you understand that. Now, here are the four principles out of those verses, that we have just described with an illustration.

(1) One, the law reveals sin and lust. That is verses 7. The law does show us sin. Paul has already said that in Romans 3:20 that by the law is the knowledge of sin. When you apply the law you will reveal more sin and you will more lust to do those things that you ought not to do. That is the way the human nature is programmed.

(2) Number two, the law gave sin a base of operation to stir us to more lust. Let me repeat that again. The law gave sin a base of operation to stir us to more lust. Vs 8..says: "sin taking opportunity through the commandment."

The word "opportunity is an old Roman word or term for "base of operations." The Romans would set up such a base in order to move out and conquer more territory.

So, what is it saying? The law gave sin, this principle out here, a base of operation in our life to really go to all kinds of lusting. Because it showed us what sin is, and now, the old sin nature, you see, is responding. And sin has a new base of operation. The law. It is a strange thing.

(3) Number three, the law requires death. The law requires death. Even though it could produce life. That is verses 9 through 11.

The law requires death even though it could produce life. Do you know that if you keep the law and never violated it once in your whole life, you would live forever? That is right! The old testament tells you that. If you never once violated the law. Of course there was only one person who has ever done that. And that was Jesus. And there is a wonderful little phrase in the N.T. used many times of Jesus which tells it all..."He fulfilled the law"... That means "completed...nothing missing..."

If you could do that you would live forever. But, the fact is that no one, except Jesus has ever done it. On one. And it requires death.

(4) Number four, the law is good. Nothing wrong with it. But because of that it reveals how sinful we are. The law is good, and because of that it reveals how sinful we are. Paul calls the law..holy..just..good..spirituality. There is nothing wrong with the law. The whole word of God is the law of the Lord. There is nothing wrong with it. It is perfect. It is holy. It is just. It is spiritual. And it is good.

But that which is good has pointed out to us how we are bad. And the more of this you understand, the more you understand about yourself. Don't tell me you understand yourself, if you don't know the Bible. The Bible says that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it? It is I the Lord who searches the reins of the heart."

People pay a lot of money going to doctors to find out what they are really like. Listen, God says that you cannot know yourself. It is impossible. "It is I the Lord who searches the heart." It is God who shows us. You see, people don't want to see it because God tells us how bad we are, how really sinful we are. He tells us where the real world is in our mind. God makes that pretty clear. And we don't want to hear it. And we want to believe that we are much better than that. And it is the old sin nature once again. Still trying to be what they think God's wants them to be. When God says that you cannot. You need Him to do it for you.

() Now beginning with verse 15 to the end of the chapter he talks about the impossibility of keeping the law. And if you have had any experience in the Lord for any length of time you know about Romans 7.

(1) First of all, in verses 15 to 17, he tells us that there is a conflict going on all the time inside of you. There is a conflict going on. Let's read it...Vs 15....

(Read Vs 15-17)

What a conflict. Have you ever experienced that? Things you really want to do, you know that God wants you to do them, and you can't do them. You try, but you fail. OR, some other believer points out to you that you have failed. And that is when it really hurts. So, we don't want to do some things, yet, we do them. And we do want to do some things, and we can't. And there is this tremendous conflict going on in our life.

(2) Secondly, in verses 18 to 23 he tells us that their are consequences to all of this that you will discovery. There are four consequences that I want you to see. You will discover these in your life, if you haven't already. And God wants you to discovery them.

(1) Number one, there is no good in your flesh. That is verse 18. "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh." That is not talking about the body. The physical body is not evil. He is talking about the old sin nature.

In your nature as a human being there is no good thing. That is very hard for people to accept. That is the consequence that you will discover through constant conflict as a believer. You will discover that you can't do what you really want to do. And you can't avoid doing what you don't want to do. And you discover that there is no good in your flesh.

(2) Now, number two, you will also discover that there is no ability in you to do good.

Even though you want to do it. There is no ability in your life to do good. Even though you want to do it. Last part of verse 18..."for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. Boy, you talk about a consequence...wow!

(3) The third consequence you will discover ..in stead of practicing good in your life, you will be practicing evil.

That is an amazing thing. Now, believers are suppose to practice good. Do you know what they discover real quick? They are practicing evil. Now, you can go on and on and never do the worst five sins. You know, hiding them so others will not see. But, God knows what is in your mind. And the Bible says that this is the experience of every believer. So, why not admit it? Because until we do, we will never experience a spirit filled life. You see, until we are done with all the little fake things in our life that try to impress others with how spiritual we are..until we are done with that you will never discover the spontaneous life in the Lord. That even in tears you can have the joy of the Lord. Even in difficulties you can have the love of the spirit of God. And in the midst of great troubles you can have peace. Not because you try to drum it up and try to make other people think you have it. But, now, because you are married to Christ you learn to let His life live in you.

Well, God is going to wipe us out alright. He wants to do it. Because he wants us to have victory.

(4) And the fourth thing you will discover in the consequences is that there is a waring going on inside of you. That teaches you that there are four laws.

Now, here is what I want you to do. Take a piece of paper and put two laws on each side so that they face one another. Now, on one side of the paper put the first law: THE LAW OF THE MIND. Just write that down. THE LAW OF THE MIND.

Then directly across from that ..write the word Verese IN THE MIDDLE...THE LAW OF THE MIND VERSES THE LAW OF THE FLESH....THE LAW OF THE MIND VERSES THE LAW OF THE FLESH.

Now, underneath the law of the mind with a little arrow pointing down to it ...put THE LAW OF GOD

Because the Bible says that with the law of the mind you serve the law of God.

Now, on the other side of the page underneath the law of the flesh put another arrow pointing down to the fourth law which is the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. Now, the law of flesh, says the Bible, serves the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. The LAW OF THE MIND serves THE LAW OF GOD.

But, these oppose each other. My flesh is opposing what my mind wants to do. And the LAW OF GOD is differently against the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THIS?

I want you to see the conquest that must take place. And there are three things involved in it. And with this we are through. Three things that are involved in getting the victory.

(1) Number one is in verse 24. And that is the realization of your sinful state. You will never have victory until you realize the sinful state that you are in. As long as the old sin nature thinks well of itself, you will never have victory.

The realization of our sinful state is stated so beautifully by Paul in Vs 24. "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?" The the word "wretched" comes from two words . One "to bear" and the other "callus" "OH, Callused man that I am!"...Insensitive...hardened... Sinful to the core....Stubborn...Self-centered...Selfish....WHO IS GOING TO SET ME FREE FROM THIS? If you don't realize your sinful state you will not have victory.

(2) And the second thing in the conquest is recognition...Recognition.. of a sufficient saviour. Sufficient for what? For all my needs. For my whole life. And that is declared in verse 25 with and exclamation mark: "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

You must recognize a sufficient saviour. Is he all you need? Is He?

Isn't it interesting how often Jesus show the disciples that he was the sufficient saviour. One great example that I think of is the feeding of the five thousand.

You know, those folks were really hungry. And I can imagine in their minds that they were trying to get Jesus to perform one of his little miracles. Really....How do I know that that is true? Because the Bible says that Jesus knew that they needed to be tested. They were not trusting Him at all. Even to provide just food. These disciples walked the hills with Jesus. For three and a half years. They wandered around with him. And depended totally upon him. And he kept teaching them over and over to depend upon him.

Now, he could have told the five thousand on that hill to come over to him. And he could have said.."Sir, what would you like? How about a little roast beef? Maybe you would like some prime rib....

He didn't do that. Do you remember what he said to the disciples? He asked them..What do we have to feed them? What do you mean, What do we have to feed them. You are the Lord...do something?

And so they debated what to do. And where they were going to get the money to buy bread. And then Andrew comes up.."Hey, there is a little boy over here with a small lunch...two fish and five barely loaves." "But what is that among so many?"

You see, Andrew doubted also. But at least he brought something to the Lord. "Here is a little lunch."

And can't you see the other disciples saying..."Big deal, Andrew. What do you expect us to do with that." Typical responses among most believers.

Do you remember what Jesus said to them? Let's have a word of prayer. We are going to thank God for this lunch. We are going to thank God for five barely loaves and two fishes, when we have five thousand men, not counting women and children. LET'S HAVE A WORD OF PRAYER. The Bible says that He gave thanks. And then he began to break.

Now, just picture yourself standing there with those disciples watching this. He takes the first loaf and breaks it and it is still there. He breaks it again and it is still there. He just keeps breaking that loaf and it is still there. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THAT MUST HAVE LOOKED LIKE?

Hay John, are you seeing what I am seeing?

And then the Bible says that after everyone had been feed that there were 12 baskets of food left over. Now, isn't that interesting. One for every one of the disciples. 12 baskets. WHERE DID IT COME FROM? Well, five loavs and two fishes.....Tell me? Why didn't the Lord just create food? Why did Job have to come all the way down to where he said, "Thou he slay me, yet will I trust him." WHY? Because dear friends, until we come down to the bottom, and recognize that He is all sufficient, He will meet all my needs, we will not have victory.

God wants us to come down that way. He wants us to cry out. "God help me." I can't handle it anymore. I know what I really am. And I know that I don't have the ability to do what you want me to do. But I know that you do. (3) And the third thing is the secret. And that is resting in a Holy.. soverign God. And that is the message of next week. But just let me read the first two verses of chapter .8...."There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death."

God introduces a new law. The LAW OF THE MIND serves THE LAW OF GOD. The LAW OF THE FLESH serves THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. And they are opposed to each other. And thus their is only frustration. So, God introduces a new law. And he says to the believer: "Listen,.you have the holy spirit inside of you. Now rest in Him."

You don't have to go out and do the Holy Spirit's work. He will do it. DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU DON"T REST IN THE SPIRIT? AND DO YOU KNOW WHY WE FIND IT HARD TO SEE IT WORK THIS WAY?

Because the old sin nature is still trying to do it all. So, you must realize your sinful state. You must recognize a sufficient saviour. Then you must rest in the Holy Spirit.

LET'S CLOSE WITH A WORD OF PRAYER