

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ROMANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 14 - An Illustration From Marriage - [Romans 7:1-6](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

An Illustration From Marriage

7 All of you know something about law. So surely, my brothers and sisters, you know that the law has power over a person only as long as he's alive.

²For example: A married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives. But if he dies, she is free to marry someone else.

³If she lives with another man while her husband is still living, she will be called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, the law no longer considers her married, and she does not commit adultery if she marries another man.

⁴For that reason, my dear friends, when the Messiah suffered and died on the cross for your sins, you were released from your marriage to the Law of Moses. So now you can be married to another—to the One who was raised from the dead, so that through your marriage to Him, you might produce fruit unto God.

⁵When we lived mainly to satisfy the various appetites of our flesh, our corrupt desires became rebellious and inflamed when the Law challenged our actions, and we kept on bearing fruit that would result in death.

⁶But now we've been set free from the Law, because that which once controlled our lives is now dead. Now we joyfully serve God with new understanding and a new heart, no longer hoping to get right with God in the old way by performing the rites and ceremonies of the Law.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 14 - An Illustration From Marriage - [Romans 7:1-6](#)

158. What illustration did Paul use to explain a Christian's relationship to the written law? ([7:1-3](#))

159. Whom does the husband represent in Paul's illustration? ([7:2-3](#))

160. Whom does the married woman represent in Paul's illustration? ([7:2-3](#))

161. To what did Paul compare the death of a woman's husband? ([7:2-5](#)) Why?

162. What is the purpose or goal of a Christian's new life? ([7:4](#))
163. What changes a person's relationship to the Law? ([7:4-6](#))
164. What are the primary differences between the old life under the Law and the new life in the way of the Spirit? ([7:4-6](#))
165. What controls a person before he or she becomes a Christian? ([7:5](#))
166. How is a person released from being bound by the Law? ([7:6](#))
167. How does the Christian's new life compare with the old life? ([7:6](#))
168. What is the difference between keeping religious laws and following the Spirit of Christ?

Lesson 15 - Struggling With Sin - [Romans 7:7-25](#)

Our Fight Against Sin

⁷What shall we conclude then? Is the Law sinful? Of course not! In fact, I wouldn't have known what sin was unless the Law had revealed it to me. For example, I wouldn't have known that it's wrong to eagerly desire what belongs to someone else if the Law hadn't said, "You shall not covet." (*Ex. 20:17; Dt. 5:21*)

⁸But sin, pouncing upon the opening it had when I began thinking about the things the Law said were wrong, caused me to have all kinds of evil desires. When there was no Law, sin was dormant.

⁹I was once alive when I knew nothing about the Law. But when I came face-to-face with God's commands, sin came alive in me, and I soon realized I was doomed to death!

¹⁰So I found that the very commands that should have led me to life, resulted in death instead.

¹¹My *sinful nature* seduced me to sin because of the very rules and commands of the Law. So it was really my *sinful nature* that put me to death by the demands of the Law.

¹²Still, there is nothing wrong with the Law. What the Law demands is altogether right, just, and good.

¹³So has something good been the cause of my death? Not at all! But it was sin, revealed for what it really is, that brought death to me through what is good. It was by means of God's commands that sin was exposed as the horrible and deceitful thing that it really is.

The War Within Us

14Because we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am carnal, a creature of the flesh, sold into slavery under the control of sin.

15In fact, I can't explain why I do what I do, because the good I'm determined to do, I don't do. But I keep doing things I hate.

16So then, I must consent to the fact that the Law is good, especially when it condemns those wrong things I really don't want to do, but still keep doing.

17But I'm really not the one doing the wrong; it's the *sinful nature* within me.

18Yes, I know full well that nothing good is living within me—that is, within my unrenewed nature [my flesh] —because even though I want to do what's good, I can't follow through and do it!

19Because the good I want to do, I don't do, but I keep on doing the evil things I don't want to do.

20So if I keep on doing what I don't want to do, this means I am no longer the one doing it, but it's the *sinful nature* within me that's doing it.

21So I've discovered the rule, that, when I want to do what's right, evil is always there to pull me down.

22In my heart, I take delight in the Law God has given us.

23But I find another law working within me, fighting against what my mind wants. It's the *sinful nature* within me, bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24Oh, what a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that's taking me to death?

25Thank God! There is abundant deliverance through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, to sum up what I've just said: As for myself, my mind is set and determined to obey God's laws, but if I depend on my own strength to do so, I will buckle under and serve the law of sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 15 - Struggling With Sin - [Romans 7:7-25](#)

169. What is the purpose of the Law? ([7:7-8](#))

170. What bad effect does knowing the Law have on a person? ([7:7-8](#))

171. When a person has no knowledge of the Law, what becomes of sin? ([7:9](#))

172. How does knowing the Law bring the possibility of death to a person? ([7:9-11](#))

173. How does the Law put a person to death? ([7:11](#))
174. What are the characteristics of the Law and the commandment? ([7:12](#))
175. How does the awareness of the Law produce death in a person? ([7:13](#))
176. What did Paul share about his own attempts to follow the Law? ([7:14-16](#))
177. What did Paul blame for his continuing failure to do good? ([7:17-20](#))
178. How did Paul describe his own struggle to do what was right? ([7:21-23](#))
179. How did Paul describe himself and his situation? ([7:24](#))
180. To whom did Paul turn for rescue from his agonizing situation? ([7:24](#))