

# Your New Relationship

*Living the Christian Life, Lesson 7*

*Living the Christian Life* is a Bible study series that explores Paul's teaching about Christian growth and sanctification in Romans 6:1–8:17.

## Introductory Thoughts

After a lengthy discussion of the need for and basis of justification by grace through faith in Christ (i.e., salvation or conversion), Paul now explains how this same truth should transform our mindset and lifestyle as Christians (i.e., sanctification or Christian growth). The believer's close identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection places him or her in a new position. He is no longer a slave to sin but serves Jesus Christ instead.

## Passage: Romans 7:1-4

### In English (NKJV)

- v.1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?
- v.2 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.
- v.3 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.
- v.4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

## Key Words and Insights

*Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006) together with an interlinear Bible, like *The NKJV Greek English Interlinear New Testament* (Thomas Nelson, 1994) is an excellent way to get accurate definitions for your Bible study based upon Greek and Hebrew meanings.

Some words we have already considered from our study of Rom 6, so you can refer to those lessons or to Mounce for their definitions. As you study this passage, you should review the meanings of these words even though they are not listed on this study guide.

- *Brethren* (ἀδελφός):
- *Husband* (ἄνδρας):
- *Bound* (δέω):
- *Released* (καταργέω):

- *Marry* (γίνομαι):
- *Called* (χρηματίζω):
- *Adulteress* (μοιχαλίσ):
- *Body* (σῶμα):
- *Another* (ἕτερος):
- *Bear fruit* (καρποφορέω):

### **Questions for Meditation and Reflection**

1. Who are “those who know the law” (v.1)?
2. How does a person escape the authority of the law over the lives (v.1)?
3. What new illustration does Paul use to explain how this works (v.2)?
4. What does the example of “adultery” illustrate for us (v.3)?
5. How have we “died” and escaped the authority of the law over our lives (v.4)?
6. To whom are we now “married” (v.4)?
7. What is the purpose for this new relationship (v.4)?

### **Questions for Personal Application**

1. What is it like to live “under the dominion of the law”? Think back to your pre-conversion days and describe this experience in your own words.
2. How does the illustration of marriage help us understand our new relationship to God in a way that the slavery illustration does not?
3. What kind of fruit has God been producing in your life since your conversion?
4. What kind of fruit is God working to produce in your life right now?