

Two Marriages of the Believer; Romans 7:1a**Outline of Romans 7**

1. The Two Marriages of the Believer (vv 1–6)
2. The Mosaic Law as Marriage Counselor to the First Marriage (vv 7–14)
3. The Attacks of the First Husband (vv 15–21)
4. The Battle of Wheel-tracks, or “Do You Know the Way to Santa Fe” (vv 22–25)

The Two Marriages of the Believer (Romans 7:1, Romans 7:2, Romans 7:3, Romans 7:4, Romans 7:5, Romans 7:6)
Romans 7:1

Do you not know, fellow believers—for I communicate to those who know the Law—that the Mosaic Law has dominion over a person as long as he lives?

The question to these believers is introduced by the words “*Do you not know*”: *e agnoeo* - “*to be ignorant; to not know a thing*”

These Roman believers are not stupid about what Paul is about to teach, yet Paul is skeptical about whether they are making application from what they should already know. What he is about to say should be in long-term memory traces but he implies that they might not be recalling it.

Romans 7 is going to address the inner conflict which rages in the souls of believers. Paul is going to address the frustrations of living the Christian way of life while being handicapped by wheel-tracks of wickedness which are paths of least resistance.

The human tendency is to explain this conflict between wheel-tracks in philosophical or psychological terms. Biologists, neurologists, and psychologists have a hard time communicating with each other yet on one thing they all seem to agree: If a person commits some heinous act, he must be mentally ill. An unscrupulous legal system has been quick to agree with this assumption and has used it to turn our system of criminal jurisprudence on its ear.

The message of this chapter is simply this: if you have inner conflict, if you assume it is the result of your environment; if you believe every problem is the result of injustice and unfairness, then you are both irrational and arrogant. Problems are a part of living in the Devil’s world. But the believer has left that environment behind.

Christians are members of the heavenly community and therefore are expected to rely on biblical problem-solving devices. This is very difficult to do when the believer remains enslaved to a behavior pattern constructed by human viewpoint during his time of unbelief. Recovery is based on the believer's willingness to orient and adjust to divine viewpoint. He has both the option to do so and the ability to pull it off through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul begins his message with a reminder that at physical birth a person falls under the dominion of the Mosaic Law as counselor to a marriage between him and his sinful nature and in which he is subordinated to the position of wife.