

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 21, 2013

Passage: Romans 7:1-6

Memory Passage: Review Romans 6:17-18

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 7:1-6.** As you read all 6 verses, answer the following questions: (1) What is the connection between 7:1-6 and 6:14-23? (2) What is the main point of 7:1-6? (3) What connections do you find between 7:1-6 and chapters 5 & 6?

(b) Why does Paul start v. 1 with the conjunction “or” (i.e. what thoughts does this conjunction connect)? Who are “those who know the law,” and why should they already know what he is about to say (“do you not know”)?

(c) FYI: Obscured in some of our English texts is the fact that the verb “binding” (“jurisdiction” in NASB, “authority” in NIV) is the same word that is translated “dominion” in 6:9 & 6:14 (cf. KJV). About what law is Paul speaking in 7:1?

(d) *Family: Read Rom. 7:1-6.* Using your white board, answer the questions posed in (a) above. Answers: Paul mentions, but does not explain, that believers are “not under law” in vs. 14-15, so in chapter 7 he begins to explain the believer’s relationship to the law. The main point of these verses seems to be found in v. 4: you have died to the law in Christ so that you may belong to Him and bear fruit for God. There are many connections to chapters 5 & 6. Here are just a couple to whet your appetite to dig deeper: Paul continues the theme of dominion (see c above), we have died to sin in 6:2 & died to death in 6:3 (both explained further in 6:4-10) and now we have died to the law, fruit was discussed in 6:21-22 as well as here in 7:4-5, etc.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 7:1-6.** Explain the analogy Paul uses in vs. 2-3. Is Paul intending on changing the topic to marriage by using this analogy? How do you know?

(b) What does Paul’s use of “likewise” in v. 4 tell us about what he is about to say in relation to what he has just said? Is there a one-to-one correspondence between the reality (v. 4a) and the analogy (vs. 2-3)? Explain v. 4a (the reality) in light of the analogy Paul uses (vs. 2-3).

(c) What does the phrase, “through the body of Christ” mean? What does it mean for a believer to have “died to the law”? Explain the results of dying to the law in v. 4 (“so that” & “in order that”)? Give examples of “fruit for God.”

(d) *Family: Read Rom. 7:1-6* and explain the flow of thought: The Mosaic law only binds a person as long as they live (v. 1), and to explain this Paul uses the analogy of a marriage: when 2 people are married it is against the law for either of them to go marry someone else, unless one of them dies, which releases them from the laws concerning marriage and gives the living person the right to marry someone else. In the same way, believers have died to the law upon their conversion and are now married to (joined to) someone else, and that someone else is Christ. Remind them of the castle with 2 rulers and servants you built a couple of weeks ago in which one ruler is on the throne with authority and the old ruler has been dethroned with no authority unless the servants return to him and offer to serve him. Now change the picture to a marriage: Before Christ believers were “in Adam,” servants of sin leading to death and under the dominion of (married to) the law. At conversion, believers are now “in Christ” which means they are dead to the law (so the marriage to it, the dominion of it in their lives is no longer valid) and are married to (belong to, joined to) Christ.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 7:1-6.** The ESV again obscures some connections in this text to which I want to draw your attention. The words “lives with” (v. 3), “marries” (v. 3) and “belong to” (v. 4) are all translated from the same Greek word, which means “joined to” (cf. the NASB’s translation). The idea of the church being the bride of Christ is a wonderful picture of which I think Paul wants us to think in these verses.

(b) **Read Rom. Is. 54:4-8, 62:1-5, Jer. Hosea 2:14-23, Matt. 9:14-15, John 3:26-30, 2 Cor. 11:1-2, Eph. 5:25-32, & Rev. 19:6-9.** Write down everything you learn about the relationship of God to His people/Christ to His church. All of this truth is wrapped up in the phrase “belong to” (joined to, married to) Christ.

(c) *Family: Read Rom. 7:1-6.* Teach your family the truths from (a) above, and then teach them **Rev. 19:6-9.** As you read and explain the passage, have them draw a picture of what they see in their mind. Then have them explain their drawings, which will give you an opportunity to assess what truths they grasped from the passage. FYI: this marriage supper of the Lamb happens at Christ’s return at the end of this age, righteous deeds (bright fine linens) of the saints are only possible for those who have “white robes,” i.e. the righteousness of Christ credited to all their accounts (see. Is. 61:10, Zech. 3:3-5, Rev. 6:11 & 11:14), and so those invited to the banquet are believers clothed in Christ’s righteousness.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 7:1-6.** When were Paul's hearers "living in the flesh" (v. 5) and what does that mean? What have we already learned in Romans 6 about "sinful passions," "our members," and "fruit?"

(b) What was the role of the law in the work of their sinful passions? Where have you learned about this work of the law prior in Romans, and how does 7:5 inform these previous teachings? How does the fruit borne by those under the law lead to death?

(c) Summarize Paul's teaching about the old realm, the realm of Adam, with regard to sin, law, and death. Be sure to explain v. 5, but also include any other teaching in Romans 5 & 6 that you have learned.

(d) *Family:* **Read Rom. 7:5-6.** Using your white board, make 2 columns with room for a heading on each one but don't put a heading yet. Have your family read through 7:5-6 on their own, and make a list of characteristics found in v. 5 and another list from v. 6. Then have them tell you what to write on the white board, and you write them in the 2 columns. Then ask, "What should we title each column?" The answers in context would be "flesh & spirit," but could also be "lost & saved," "in Adam & in Christ," "slave & free," etc. Now help them understand the differences between a life lived in the flesh and in the Spirit.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 7:1-6.** What contrast is Paul making by using the phrases "while we were" (v. 5) and "but now" (v. 6)? What does it mean to be "released from the law?" Is this different from dying to the law? How do you know (make sure your reason comes from the context of 7:1-6)?

(b) Paul will go on to explain in detail what it means to "serve in the old way of the written code" (7:7-25) and "serve in the new way of the Spirit" (8:1ff). However, before we go on to study those passages, describe each of these 2 types of service using knowledge from what you have already learned in 5:12-7:6.

(c) We have had many objective questions this week with very little application. For the rest of today, contemplate and answer the following questions: (1) What fruit are you bearing for God, and how do you know it is not "fruit for death?" (2) Do you ever feel that you are still under the dominion of the law, and if so, why? (3) What truths do you find in 7:1-6 that bring comfort to you, and that challenge your feeling of still being in bondage to the law (since these indicative truths are provided to you because you are in union with Christ, this is a way of preaching the gospel to yourself when Satan tempts you to feel like you are under the dominion of the law, sin, and death)? (4) How would you explain to a new believer how to move from serving as though they are still under the "old way of the written code" to serving "the new way of the Spirit?" (5) Now think about your explanation, pray, and ask the Spirit to reveal to you any areas of your life you need to apply this explanation to your own life.

(d) *Family:* Either lead your family through (c) above, or spend this time working on your memory verses and reviewing older verses that you have already memorized.

DATE: April 21, 2013

PASSAGE: Romans 7:1-6

Your New Husband

In Romans 7:1-6 Paul provides a 4-stage argument to prove that believers are dead to the dominion and penalty of the law and married to Christ.