

## Romans 7 "Step by Step"

*Step by Step* is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live with purpose and identity.

### Thoughts and considerations

Chapter 7 is somewhat of a commentary on Romans 6:14,15 "*For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.* <sup>15</sup>*What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!*" Beginning in verse addressing 6:15 and then continuing through the chapter addressing the reality of our sinful nature and new Life.

**V1** This New Life in Christ has a new way of living. This New Life is not built on moral and ethical 'law' but rather a higher calling, a greater motivation. The energy, the motivation, the breath of this New Life is LOVE!

**V1-** Addresses those who knew the 'law' of marriage (Jews)

**V2,3-** This illustration is to remind us that we are dead to the old life and we are now married/united to Christ to live a new kind of life.!

**V4- Therefore-** In reference to the illustration given; we were united(bound, married) to our old sinful nature until we met Jesus. In Christ we are now dead to the power of the old nature and alive in Christ. Bound until death, now freed to live the New life; fresh and fruitful. *Bear fruit to God!*

**V5-** Our old nature, rebellious and self-promoting, resists instruction and direction, desiring to be independent. When 'law' was given; for example, "Wet Paint, Do not Touch!" our sinful nature violates instructions. It is because we are given instruction (law) that we desire to disobey. (James 1:14-16).

We used to be *at work in our members to bear fruit to death-* Self-serving, held by the power of sin!  
BUT(v6)

**V6- delivered-** Do away with, put down, put an end to! "to deprive of force, influence, power."  
*from the law, having died to what we were held by.* (Remember 6:14, 15)

We are no longer under the power of sin(old life), NOW we are free to choose who we will serve.

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**V7-12** Using the example of *covetousness* to show the point about the purpose of the law. The law reveals sin but does nothing to remove sin.

Sin was present before the law, the law confirmed sins presence. The law is good for fulfills its purpose of unveiling sin. Our problem is that we tried to be obedient to the law to prove we could be sinless, that is not the purpose of the law. The law does not produce obedience, it proves disobedience!

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**V13** *“So that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful: Sin “becomes more sinful” in light of the law in two ways. First, sin becomes exceedingly sinful through contrast with the law. Second, sin becomes exceedingly sinful because the law provokes its evil nature. (David Guzik) “Instead of being a dynamo that gives us power to overcome, the Law is a magnet that draws out of us all kinds of sin and corruption.” (W.Wiersbe)*

**V14-** Paul is addressing that; 'The law deals with my spirit and cuts right to heart of my being.'  
"Human beings are essentially spirits, so the Law affects us in the spiritual dimension of our being."  
(Ray Stedman)

**V15-20** We see in words what is played out in our lives as Christians; the desire to serve, honor, love God is interfered with by our sinful nature. The will to do good is present but it is often ran over by selfish fleshly (carnal) desires.

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**V21-23** There is this principle (law) within me; As I delight in loving God there is another part of me that loves myself more. This selfish side always draws me deeper into selfishness and rebelling away from God.

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**V24-** Honesty before God is essential if we are to grow spiritually: Oh, what a mess, I am! BUT, don't stop here with that admission, move toward God's deliverance! "Who will rescue me from myself?" Paul, like most of us, tried to rescue himself until he encountered the amazing grace revealed through Jesus Christ!

**V25-** Thanking God for His deliverance which came through the perfect work of Jesus Christ, whom we put our faith in and ask Him to be our Lord! Though the flesh still throws its fits, but I will serve this new principle, this New Life, the law of Love.

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*"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18*