

# **The Footsteps of Faith Series**

## **Lesson # 10 “Righteousness includes being untied with Christ”**

Romans 7:1-25

**Scripture:** Romans 1:16-17

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”*”

### **Introduction:**

When I was a little boy my favorite show was the Six Million Dollar Man. With Steve Austin. He had been injured in an accident and during his reconstruction surgery they put in bionic parts to fix him, which gave him super human strength and abilities. And he made this cool noise when he ran. When we were on the play ground we would make that noise when we ran and I am convinced it made me run faster and really made me cool.

Well there was another show called the Flying Nuns. Have you seen that show? It was a pretty good show but I could never figure out the mechanics of how their hats even if they could happen to get enough lift with a strong wind, could lift them into the air instead of simply blowing off their heads. I guess this is when I learned to be a film critic. The show would have probably lasted longer if kids could have figured out how to pretend to fly in the same way...but nun hats are hard to come by.

In Tulsa there was a Catholic Convent for nuns and we used to drive by that mysterious place and boy did we have all kinds of questions for mom and dad about what they were doing in there.

Mom explained that these ladies had dedicated there life and service to God and they lived there practiced there belief in God. They worshipped there and conducted classes and meeting all to promote their idea of spiritual life.

But mom told me a very fascinating thing I shall not soon forget. She said that these ladies were not married to men on this earth. But she said they wore wedding rings because they were married to Christ.

### **Transitional Statement:**

Church, marriage represents the closet of relationships and spiritually speaking our relationship with Christ is the husband and wife relationship, in which He has authority over us and we willfully submit to Him because He is the desire of our hearts.

## **Lesson:**

### **I. The Law's authority stops at death.**

Romans 7:1

*1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?*

- A. The “*or do you not know*” connects us to the idea in chapter 6 that being righteous before God includes dying to sin.
  - 1. So this lesson certainly builds on the preceding chapter
- B. To those that “*know the law*”
  - 1. “*Know*” is a prolonged form of the word know, having to do with absolute trust in.
  - 2. So Paul points out those who are still placing their trust in the Law of Moses
- C. And says that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives.
  - 1. So the Law of Moses was kind of like our civil laws in the united states, that is they only have authority and control over a person while the person is living.
  - 2. Hence the obvious connection from chapter six is in Christ we have died and the Law of Moses no longer has authority and control over us.
  - 3. This is the point of Paul's opening statement here
  - 4. And in the rest of the lesson Paul will go on to develop this single thought adding more details as he goes along.

### **II. The analogy of marriage, when the husband dies.**

Romans 7:2-3

*2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. 3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.*

- A. The Law has authority and control over the wife while her husband is alive.
  - 1. While her husband is alive

- a. She is to submit to her husband
  - b. She is to be faithful to him only
  - c. And she is bound by the law and can not change it.
2. But if her husband dies...she is released from the law that has had authority and control of her.
- B. Think about the connection for a minute, through out the scriptures God has always been the husband and mankind has been His wife.
1. But it seems that man has never been happy in the role of wife.
  2. In the garden of Eden man rejected the husband God and tried to be the husband himself...and that got him kicked out of God's presence.
  3. Under the Old Covenant, man again rejected God as the husband and took the law and made it the husband.
    - a. But in a sense the husband died (that is the Law) , in that it was fulfilled.

Ephesians 2:14-16

*14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity."*

- b. This is not saying that we need to chunk the Old Testament and that it has no use for the Christian. 2 Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is Profitable. And the last time I checked all included the Old Testament. Just think:
  - Through the OT we learn who God is
  - We see how He works
  - And what He expects of us
  - The OT was and is a to be a learning experience Gal. 3:24
4. So, since the Law died the Jews were no longer bound to it
  - The Jews no longer would have to submit to it
  - Be faithful to it
  - They were released from it
5. The Jews were widows, free to marry again

### **III. Then the analogy of marriage, when the wife also dies.**

Romans 7:4

*4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.*

A. Not only did the husband (The Law) die but you the wife (you Jews) died also by entering into death with Christ at baptism Romans 6:1-5

1. How much more released from the Law when both the husband and wife dies?

B. Now, not bound by law, they could marry again.

1. To Him who was raise....Christ !

2. Bride of Christ Rev. 21:9 & Eph 5:22ff

C. To bear fruit for God.

1. God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and as man and woman that meant to have children and fill the earth.

2. With Christ as our husband we are to bare forth spiritual fruit for God.

### **IV. Now Paul compares the two husbands.**

Romans 7:5

*5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.*

A. While we were in the flesh under the 1<sup>st</sup> husband the Law

1. When we made daily sacrifices

2. We looked to a man as our priest

3. We observed all the daily rituals of temple worship

B. Sin reigned supreme

1. And even grew because of our awareness of God's expectations.

2. And since there was no release from it, death was the outcome.

3. The law was a no-win scenario to those trying to be saved by it

## **V. But with Christ as the husband**

Romans 7:6

*6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.*

A. But with Christ as our husband

B. The Jew was released from the Law

1. Released from a system of sin and death

C. Now able to serve in newness of the Spirit....not in oldness of the letter.

1. Church here is a great lesson for us today, just getting the job done is not as important as how we do it.

2. Serving in the Spirit is a matter of the heart Matt 15:8-9

3. 2 Corinthians 3:6 “who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

4. John 4:24 “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

5. Our approach to God was never meant to be some mechanical checklist, but one of heartfelt submission flowing from the desire of our hearts.

### **Conclusion:**

**Are you trying to be your own spiritual husband?**

**-Trying to guide your own way**

**-Trying to justify yourself.**

**Maybe today you find yourself disconnected with your spiritual husband Christ.**

**He stands at the door and waits for you to step forward in newness of spirit.**