

THE REAL YOU

Identity Tested

Romans 7

I. REASON FOR THE STRUGGLE (vs. 15-23)

- The good I want to do I don't do, and the evil I don't want to do I do (*vs. 15, 16*).
- This is a battle between what we know and how we function – the mind versus the flesh (*vs. 23,25*).
- This struggle is that of a believer struggling under law of various sorts – Old Testament law, expectations of others, or the expectations of self.

II. RELEASED FROM THE STRUGGLE (vs. 1-7)

- You were bound by law before being reborn (*vs. 1,2*).
- At your rebirth you were freed from this by death – by your crucifixion with Christ (*vs. 4,6a; Rom. 6:6*).
- You were joined to another – Jesus Christ (*vs.4b*).
- The rule of your life is now Christ not the law (*vs 6b, 25*).

III. RESTING FROM THE STRUGGLE

- This truth is the only way to obtain rest in your soul.
- You can rest from this struggle by daily handing your life over to Christ as the one who redeemed you, owns you, and controls you.
- Test yourself – am I resting only in Christ or do I still find myself in the struggle of Romans 7 – pass or fail – it is one or the other!

The Illustration

Romans 7:1-4



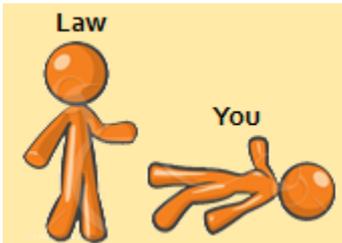
You were married to a very demanding husband, one whom you could never satisfy.

You wanted to be free from him but knew you were in this marriage until death parted you.

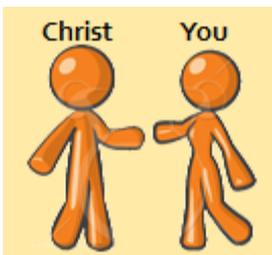


You knew that if your demanding husband were to die, you would be released from your marriage and be free to marry another.

But in reality this husband, the law, can never die.



The only solution to get out of this marriage was for you to die and that is what happened.



However you were raised from the dead and were married to Christ.

Instead of being a demanding husband He desires to do everything for you – to live in and through you.