



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 7:1-12
- John 8:2-12
- Jeremiah 17:5-13
- Deut. 17:2-6; 19:15-20

THE OPERATING SYSTEM OF CREATION

- Until Death Do Us Part
- The tOS and its APPS
- Case Law: The Law in Action

SEED:

"Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that **the law has dominion** over a man **as long as he lives**? For the woman **who has a husband is bound by the law** to her husband as long as **he lives**. But **if the husband dies**, she is **released from the law of her husband**." Romans 7:1-2 NKJV

FRUIT:

"...I would not have known sin except through the law..."

Romans 7:7 NKJV

"...For **apart from the law sin was dead**." Romans 7:8 NKJV

"For **sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me**." Romans 7:11 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

Last week in [Slavery](#) (Romans 6:15-23)...

I think it is now abundantly clear what it means and what it does not mean to be under law. It means if you sin and there is no remedy, you die. And you are brought deeper still into the pit, if you somehow believe you can supply your own remedy. God's grace is the only remedy and that should inspire a reckless abandon, desperate and radical desire to obey God, not a sloppy excuse to violate His Word. Christians are not under the law, quite simply, because they do have a remedy for sin. What it does not mean is that God's law has become archaic and irrelevant.

Here's the facts. Whatever it is that you habitually desire to obey, to follow, to emulate, to embrace, to promote, and to represent, it is to those things to which you become a slave. You cannot serve two masters. You will inevitably love one and hate the other, be loyal to one and despise the other. And we are not playing in the minor leagues here. We are talking life and death. Pick the master whom you will serve. Your own lawless behavior? That leads to death. Radical obedience to God? That leads to righteousness.

Before you came to the Lord you were literally a slave to sin. You might think you were free, but in reality you were bound to transgress God's ways. No human absent an incarnation of the Holy Spirit in their heart can obey God indefinitely. And at the instant of

even the smallest transgression, you became a dead-man-walking. You might even sit on dead-man's-row for years, as the minutes tick down to your inevitable demise. But rest assured, your coming demise is guaranteed. Then something happened in your heart. God's grace seeped in and softened a lifetime of scar tissue that was laid down layer-upon-layer, sin-upon-sin. And in that moment, the truth of Christ burst in and delivered you from certain death. You were literally set free from sin and became a slave of a whole new master—righteousness.

The contrast in the two versions of you could not be more stark. This idea of slavery is being used to paint an accurate picture of what you would best comprehend as a human. If explained using only spiritual language, it is not likely you would fully appreciate that magnitude of separation. It must have a visceral effect. It needs to hit you on a tangible level. Recognizing both versions of yourself needs to be real to you right now. Before Christ you were in bondage to everything defiled. You were committed to your rebellion against God, even if you were not aware of it. That death sentence perpetuated and accelerated a life of iniquity. But now, in this new life, the one you are living as you read these words, you have been transformed into a type of super-human, one empowered by God's grace to chase after and obey the things of God. And that new reality separates you from the world and from sin, if you

choose to favor that new version of you. Unfortunately, you can still opt to feed the old nature, if you wish, but that just fuels more rebellion.

You had no shot at being right in God's eyes when you were happily living in the shackles of sin. To add a bit of levity to a dreadful situation, a bleak reality, it could be thought of like this. Sin releases you from the bondage of righteousness! When you look back at your old life, the one that used to sport the trademark, "Freed from Righteousness," you'd easily recognize that there was no real fruit at all, unless you feel shame and regret are fruits! Maybe they are fruits, but they are more like poison berries because that type of fruit leads to only one place—a perpetual separation from God. However, if your new monicker is "Freed from Sin," then you have something to be truly excited about, right now and into eternity. Your new shackles fuse you permanently to God and that bears a very different species of fruit. This harvest is a sanctified life filled with seeds of righteousness, and a permanent place in the presence of God.

We can now end where we began. The cost of sin is death and the price-tag is infinitely over your pay-grade. Happily, sin no longer dominates you. And if you make an error, since you can't possibly even cover the tip if you had to pay the tab, thank God that through Jesus Christ, grace covers the bill for every meal you've

ever eaten or will ever eat. But don't forget, if you continually go back to the food trough filled with all sorts of disobedience, lawlessness, uncleanness and death—sin, that is to what you become a slave. Why not instead become a slave who shackles himself to obedience, righteousness, holiness, and life—to God. Choose now your form of slavery.

This week in Romans 7:1-14...

Don't you know? Here we are with the words Paul has chosen to follow his deep revelation about how the redemption story of Christ is indeed a Passover story. We went from captivity, into the wilderness, and then into the promised land. Christ died and we died with Him; Christ was buried and we were buried with Him; Christ resurrected and we are raised with Him as new creatures. In the Torah we see this precise pattern in the Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits. And that is the point here in chapter seven. Don't you know that I am addressing those who know the law and can recognize the patterns? Only those who understand God's law and how it is literally meant to guide you and instruct you in your everyday lifestyle and decisions can comprehend what Paul is about to say. And in this instance it is literally a matter of life and death; "Don't you know that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?"

We must pause to address what this means or the rest of this narrative will be twisted. Even Peter understood that Paul introduced difficult topics that were hard to understand. Peter exposed how untaught and unstable people would twist Paul's words to their own destruction, as mankind so commonly does with the Scriptures. That is why understanding that "the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives" requires the perspective of someone who actually knows the law, otherwise Paul would not have emphasized the critical nature of having such knowledge prior to introducing this subject. Nevertheless, for the better part of nearly 2000 years, since these words were scribed, his thoughts have been misconstrued, misinterpreted, and misappropriated by those who don't know the law. Here in the first six verses of Romans seven, the law to which Paul refers is NOT the entirety of the Torah, as if there comes a time when we are no longer bound to it; instead, it addresses the specific law of marriage that has a binding effect "until death do us part!"

Now that we have the proper context, and recognize Paul is referring here to a specific law, we can learn exactly what he is revealing, and more so why this revelation follows immediately after the truth bomb he dropped in chapter six. And maybe this is a good time to remind you that this is a letter, not a book with chapters. Chapters and verses, and even random headings, were

added later as reference points. Reading the original, you would have seamlessly flowed from the revelation in chapter six to these words at the start of chapter seven, which would then naturally remain in context. It takes a death to be released from the bond of marriage. And is that not precisely what we previously discovered—Christ died and we died with Him? The take-away here is that we have, by law, been released from our previous marriage. We were bound by the specific law of marriage as long as we or our spouse remains alive. But once there is a death, the very law of marriage that bound us together also provides a release clause. And do not overlook that this is not only a reference to a specific law, but that specific law has a condition. It is applicable only to married people.

If you ignore the law and leave your spouse to marry someone else, you will be committing adultery. But if your spouse dies you are free, under that specific law, to legally remarry. Again, with the two-thousand-year-old blinders lifted, it should be easy to discern that Paul is being granular here; he says, “She is free from THAT law!” He is in no way revealing some mechanism by which we can be freed from all of God’s laws!

But why is he being so granular here, and why now? Think about it. Paul just shared the deep revelation he had about his own life, how he died with Christ and resurrected as a new man, and how every Christian must see themselves the same way in Christ.

And now he is revealing how all along, the Torah had deep within it, a specific law that makes our future marriage to Christ legal! If He dies, or you die in Christ, and we know both occurred, then according to the law you are legally permitted to remarry. Ironically, the very law that modern-day Christianity wants to abolish, set aside as legalism, and designate to the antique pile, contains within it the statute that permits the church to be the bride of Christ. And by the way, it also contains the statute that authorizes the blood of Christ to save you. If you abolish the law; your status as the bride of Christ and your means to eternal life is abolished with it!

Now, move past thinking just in the natural and focus your prophetic antenna on the spiritual. In other words, it certainly applies to your very life here on earth, but don't just imagine your marital status as a human when you consider this law. From a spiritual perspective answer two questions. Could you have been single when you met Christ? And, does this law, which is applicable only to those who are previously married, even apply to you? With absolute certainty the answers are: you were definitely married and the law does apply. This then begs a further question: to whom were we already married?

You were not single. You were held by or married to sin and Satan. The law was codified to expose the sinful human nature. Prior to Christ, we were all living within the bond of marriage to

sinful passions, and the progeny of that intimate relationship was death. Now, as you receive Paul's words in context, it should be clear. According to the law, death has released you from what was holding you in covenant to your previous marriage. Is that not exactly what Paul revealed in the previous chapter? "You were bound in marriage to sin, but now you have been set free from that bond." And because of that release, there is a very specific statute within the Torah that reveals the circumstance that grants permission for you to remarry. The letter of the law bound you for life to sin and Satan as your spouse, but then death released you when you resurrected as a new creature with a new Spirit in you. And that new person is free to marry again.

As Paul so often does in Romans, after he drops a prophetic truth bomb, he takes pause to make sure everyone reading can catch up. He knows that what he is revealing is complicated and will be difficult to digest for most people—especially for those who don't know anything about the Torah. It's hard enough for scholars; even Paul took years to sort through the relationship of Christ to the law. And Christ Himself taught us that even the Scribes had to be instructed in things concerning the kingdom.

For all those who somehow determined that the passage above should be interpreted in a way that makes the totality of the Torah obsolete for Christians, as if it would even be sinful to consider

such of any value, you'd be dreadfully wrong. Remember, the law was codified so that all of humanity would be without excuse! No longer could there be plausible deniability. "I did not know," is unacceptable, and the modern euphemism agrees; "Ignorance of the law is no excuse." Earlier in Romans Paul wrote it like this, "For as many as have sinned without law will perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

And might we reemphasize what should be obvious by now to those who believe. Sure, the pagan world is happy to define their own ethics, but let that not be true of God's people. God is the one who defines sin, not the prevailing social mores. If you remove that which defines sin, you invalidate the very fabric of the universe—the operating system of creation. God said, "Let there be, and there was!" David remembers how the word of God, in the law of God, spoke creation into existence. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." Remove the words and the universe collapses into nothing.

Think of the Torah as the operating system of the universe and the everyday function of laws as the applications. Follow Y'shua as He ministers to the people and raises up His disciples and what you will notice is that His entire ministry demonstrated the proper application of the law. He did not abolish it; He applied it with

correct spiritual inspiration and discernment. Just imagine His words to the woman accused of adultery. He wrote the names of those who thought to accuse her in the earth, as He exposed their hidden sins and they dropped their stones one-by-one and disbanded. “Where are your accusers?” The law requires at least two witnesses. “Where is the man?” The law requires both parties to be present? The operating system was the law; Y’shua established His ruling by running His application on that operating system and the outcome was, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more!”

Even the applications on the very devices you depend on every day function only because beneath the surface is an operating system. You cannot load the apps and then remove the operating system and expect the device to function at all! In other words, sin could not be judged and mitigated using the correct application if there was no law on which to operate.

It’s all a matter of seeing things with the proper perspective. Once it is clear that you are infected with sin, as all humans are, the proper treatment also becomes more evident. Think of sin as a living creature that is skulking around in search of a host in which to inject its venom. In fact, sin has a desire to rule you and your job is to rule it! From a certain vantage point, the law nurtures the fertile soil in which sin grows and spreads. If there was no law to

expose your sin nature, then sin would just die for lack of nourishment. But there is also a very deceptive side of this equation, the side which leaves a person unaware of the festering infection in their bones. They think they are living life without any hinderance to what they see as good, only to one day recognize that their version of good is just pure evil. The law is the tool God uses to expose this infection. Once the law becomes known, it reveals that death has already spread throughout your body. That is the life-giving purpose of the law. Sure it seems to be quite the opposite at first because it initially exposes the infection. But later, if you are humble enough to open your eyes, you will admit it actually illuminated the path to recovery—life from death. Sin does its best works as a covert insidious enemy. It would prefer to stay hidden for as long as possible, so that once a diagnosis is made, it's too late—death is imminent. But the greatest news of all is that as long as you still have one breath in your lungs, it's not too late.

When you see the law for what it was truly meant for, as the operating system of creation, the means to show you the way of death and the way of life, it will alter your perspective. Now the law is not something to dread, but something that will help you understand God's holiness and His plan for you to join Him as His purely sanctified children.

You see, the law which delivers a verdict of death also provides within its statutes an offer for life and that's what makes it so good. Surely, if your heart is hardened you will judge what God intended for good as if it is evil, what God intended to bring life as if it could only produce death. That's precisely what the enemy of your soul hopes you will conclude. It is so subtle, and the inflection point can seem almost imperceptible. It's as if you are hanging by a thread over a bottomless cavern and the solution to your survival is to let go. You can keep hanging on hoping that the fraying fibers won't break, but they will. And that's the deception. You can't save yourself. It won't be until you recognize why you are hanging there, and then become willing to admit your faults, that you are infected with sin, that the answer will appear. The fabric of God's creation exposed you, and that is a good thing, a holy thing, a spiritual thing, and the diagnosis is terminal. Say it out loud if necessary; "I am infected with a disease and it's killing me and I need someone to save me." And then let go and you will fall right into the arms of a loving God.

"Think in Bible." DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

It's all a matter of perspective. As the years of life pass, certain things come into focus much more so than when you are younger.

It's a strange phenomenon, but as your natural eyes fail and the world around you begins to blur, your spiritual eyes sharpen, simultaneously coming into focus. To take advantage of this phenomenon you have to let go! Might this be an uplifting word, a Holy Spirit boost to your spiritual engine. Let go! Yes, it's often easier to let go as you age both naturally and spiritually because humility settles in. But consider this, no matter what age you are right now, and no matter how advanced in the faith, this one thing is true. At this very moment, you are the youngest you will ever be for the rest of your life; yes, at this very moment, and at this moment, and again at this moment.

And may this unrelenting truth inspire a shift in perspective. Everything the Father does, everything He orders, is for our good as His children. It's easy to inherit the beliefs of those who went before us, but that can be both a blessing and a trap. Each generation must be willing to evaluate what came before them and decide if what they inherited is good seed or has it been genetically altered.

For instance, Y'shua was the great Rabbi who specialized in shifting perspectives. "You've heard it said, but I tell you..." was paramount as He became the inflection point in human history. His audience had inherited certain lies and He was there to help them pivot. "I did not come to abolish the law, but to elaborate on it, so all could see the fullness of it." God's law is the operating system of

creation, the fabric of the universe. You can see it as oppressive and death defining, or you can take on a whole new perspective; the law is spiritual; the law is holy; the law is just; and the law is good. “You’ve heard is said, ‘What is good has become death to me.’ But I say, ‘When the infection of sin in your blood is exposed by God’s operating system, a simple shift in perspective will show you that this is God’s way of saving your life, not His oppressive design to kill you!’” It’s all a matter of perspective.

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART

1. The Law! What Law?

A. Why does this application of the law logically follow the teachings of chapter six?

(1) Hint from Chapter 6: “For he who **has died** has been **freed from sin**.” (Romans 6:7) Death of the old man, of sin, and of our marriage to Satan.

(a) Don’t you know!

1. “Or do you not know, brethren (**for I speak to those who know the law**), that **the law has dominion** over a man **as long as he lives**?” Romans 7:1 NKJV
2. Why must you know the law to know what Paul is teaching?

- a) Don't you know? Here we are with the words Paul has chosen to follow his deep revelation about how the redemption story of Christ is indeed a Passover story.
 - 1) We went from captivity, into the wilderness, and then into the promised land.
 - 2) Christ died and we died with Him; Christ was buried and we were buried with Him; Christ resurrected and we are raised with Him as new creatures.
 - 3) In the Torah we see this precise pattern in the Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits.
- b) The point here in chapter seven: Don't you know that I am addressing those who know the law and can recognize the patterns?
 - 1) Only those who understand God's law and how it guides you and instructs you in your everyday lifestyle and decisions can comprehend what Paul is about to say.
 - 2) It is literally a matter of life and death; "Don't you know that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?"

- c) We must pause to address what this means or the rest of this narrative will be twisted.
- d) Even Peter understood that Paul introduced difficult topics that were hard to understand. Peter exposed how untaught and unstable people would twist Paul's words to their own destruction, as mankind so commonly does with the Scriptures.

1) *"Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as **also our beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, **in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction**, as they do also the rest of the **Scriptures**."* II Peter 3:14-16 NKJV

2) That is why understanding that *"the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives"* requires the perspective of someone who actually knows the law, otherwise Paul would

not have emphasized the critical nature of having such knowledge prior to introducing this subject.

- e) For the better part of nearly 2000 years, since these words were scribed, Paul's thoughts have been misconstrued, misinterpreted, and misappropriated by those who don't know the law.
- f) Here in the first six verses of Romans seven, the law to which Paul refers is NOT the entirety of the Torah, as if there comes a time when we are no longer bound to it; instead, it addresses the specific law of marriage that has a binding effect "until death do us part!"

B. Bound by THE Law "until death do us part!"

(1) What Law?

(a) Who dies?

- 1. "For the woman **who has a husband** is **bound by the law** to her husband as long **as he lives**. But **if the husband dies**, she is **released from the law** of her husband." Romans 7:2 NKJV
- 2. Now we have the proper context and recognize Paul is referring here to a specific law...

- a) What he is revealing? Why does this follow immediately after the revelation in chapter six?
- b) Reminder:
 - 1) Romans is a letter, not a book with chapters.
 - 2) Chapters and verses, and even random headings, were added later as reference points.
- c) The revelation in chapter six would have seamlessly flowed to the start of chapter seven, which would naturally remain in context.
 - 1) It takes a death to be released from the bond of marriage.
 - 2) And is that not precisely what we previously discovered—Christ died and we died with Him?
- d) The take-away here is that we have, by law, been released from our previous marriage.
 - 1) We were bound by the specific law of marriage as long as we or our spouse remains alive.
 - 2) Once there is a death, the very law of marriage that bound us together also provides a release clause.
- e) Do not overlook that this is not only a reference to a specific law, but that specific law has a condition.

- 1) It is applicable only to married people.
- (2) Those who know the law...
 - (a) We are talking about the command of Yahweh governing marriage (Genesis 2:22-24) and remarriage.
 1. It is clear in the Old Testament that Yahweh supports remarriage after the death of a spouse.
 - a) Abraham remarried after Sarah died (Genesis 25:1).
 - b) It was the obligation of a brother to marry his widowed sister-in-law (Deuteronomy 25:5).
 - c) And the entire book of Ruth is about the Kinsman Redeemer who rescues a widow by marrying her.
 - (b) Let NOT MAN separate!
 1. "The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" testing Him. And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce [Deut. 24:1], and to dismiss her." And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. **But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined**

to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man

separate." In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same matter. So He said to them,

"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."" Mark 10:2-12 NKJV

2. Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce because of the hardness of your heart.

a) God's plan: the two shall become one flesh...let not man separate.

(c) Look also at what Paul says elsewhere when he is giving specific advice about marriage.

1. "A wife **is bound by law as long as her husband lives;** but **if her husband dies**, she is **at liberty to be married** to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord.**" (I Corinthians 7:39)

2. Notice the stipulation!

a) Remarriage, after the death of a husband, requires that the next husband is in Christ!

(3) THAT law!

(a) Adulteress or Not an Adulteress?

1. "So then **if, while her husband lives, she marries another** man, she will be **called an adulteress**; but **if her husband dies**, she is **free from that law**, so that she is **no adulteress**, though she **has married another man.**" Romans 7:3 NKJV
2. Permission to remarry!
 - a) If you ignore the law and leave your spouse to marry someone else, you will be committing adultery.
 - b) But if your spouse dies you are free, under that specific law, to legally remarry.
 - c) With the two-thousand-year-old blinders lifted, it should be easy to discern that Paul is being granular here; he says, "She is free from THAT law!"
 - d) He is not revealing some mechanism by which we can be freed from all of God's laws!
 - 1) Who is the husband?
 - 2) How has he died?
 - 3) Who is the other man to whom you will marry?
 - 4) What is THAT law from which she is released?

C. The Legal Release

(1) Dead to the Law

(a) A specific clause in a specific law has been activated!

1. "Therefore, my brethren, **you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ**, that you may **be married to another**—to Him who was raised from the dead, **that we should bear fruit to God.**" Romans 7:4 NKJV

2. Christ died and you died with Him and that activated the "out clause" (a provision within a contract that allows either party to terminate the agreement under specific conditions).

a) Why is Paul being so granular here, and why now?

b) He just shared a deep revelation:

1) Each of us died with Christ and resurrected as a new man.

2) Every Christian must believe that!

c) Now he is revealing how the Torah contains a specific law that makes our future marriage to Christ legal!

1) If there is a death, there is a release from the bond of marriage.

- 2) In this instance, Christ died and we died in Christ, so according to the law you are legally permitted to remarry.
- d) Ironically, the very law that modern-day Christianity wants to abolish, set aside as legalism, and designate to the antique pile, contains within it the statute that permits the church to become the bride of Christ.
 - 1) The Torah also contains the statute that authorizes the blood of Christ to save you.
 - 2) Ask yourself why the blood of Christ has the power to redeem you! It's because the law says so! *"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS."* (Hebrews 9:22 NIV)
"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; IT IS THE BLOOD THAT MAKES ATONEMENT FOR ONE'S LIFE." (Leviticus 17:11 NIV)

- 3) If you abolish the law; your status as the bride of Christ and your means to eternal life is abolished with it!
- e) Now, move past thinking just in the natural and focus your prophetic antenna on the spiritual.
 - 1) Yes, this law of marriage applies to your life, but don't just imagine your marital status as a human when you consider this law.
- f) From a spiritual perspective answer two questions:
 - 1) Could you have been single when you met Christ?
 - 2) Does this law, which is applicable only to those who are previously married, even apply to you?
 - 3) With absolute certainty the answers are: you were definitely married and the law does apply.
- g) This then begs a further question:
 - 1) To whom were we already married?
- (2) You were never single!
 - (a) You were held by or married to sin and Satan.
 1. "For when we were **in the flesh**, the **sinful passions** which were **aroused by the law** were at work in our members to **bear fruit to death**. But now we have been **delivered from the law**, having died to what we

were held by, so that we should **serve in the newness of the Spirit** and **not in the oldness of the letter**.

“ Romans 7:5-6 NKJV

2. Delivered from that law that binds us to our old marriage.
 - a) The law was codified to expose the sinful human nature.
 - b) Prior to Christ, we were all living within the bond of marriage to sinful passions, and the progeny of that intimate relationship was death.
 - c) Now, as you receive Paul’s words in context, it should be clear.
 - 1) According to the law, death has released you from what was holding you in covenant to your previous marriage.
 - 2) The death is exactly what Paul revealed in the previous chapter.
 - d) “You were bound in marriage to sin, but now you have been set free from that bond.”
 - 1) *“But God be thanked that though **you were slaves of [married to] sin**, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been **set free from***

sin [freed from marriage to sin], you became slaves of righteousness. For when you were slaves of [married to] sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But now having been set free from sin [freed from marriage to sin], and having become slaves of [married to] God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.” Romans 6:17-18, 20, 22 NKJV

- e) And because of that release (death), there is a very specific statute within the Torah that grants permission for you to remarry.
 - a) *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be **dead indeed to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:11 NKJV*
 - b) The letter of the law bound you for life to sin and Satan as your spouse, but then death released you when you resurrected as a new creature with a new Spirit in you.
 - c) And that new person is free to marry again.

THE tOS AND ITS APPS

2. tOS: Torah Operating System and Applications

A. Definitions: OS and APPS

(1) What is an operating system (OS)?

- (a) An operating system (OS) is the program that, after being initially loaded into the computer or device by a boot program, **manages all of the other application programs in a computer. The application programs make use of the operating system** by making requests for services through a defined **application program interface** (API).
- (b) In addition, users can interact directly with the operating system through a user interface, such as a command-line interface (CLI) or a graphical UI (GUI).

(2) Why use an operating system?

- (a) An operating system brings powerful benefits to computer software and software development. **Without an operating system, every application would need to include its own user interface (UI), as well as the comprehensive code needed to handle all low-level functionality** of the underlying computer, such as disk storage, network interfaces and so on.
- (b) Considering the vast array of underlying hardware available, **this would vastly bloat the size of every application and make software development impractical.**

- (c) Instead, many common tasks can be offloaded to system software that **serves as an intermediary between the applications and the hardware. The system software provides a consistent and repeatable way for applications to interact with the hardware without the applications needing to know any details about the hardware.**
- (d) As long as each application accesses the same resources and services in the same way, that system software—**the operating system**—can service almost **any number of applications.** [Note: this is exactly how are are to consider each decision of our life. Everything (every application) must be filtered through the same system (God's law). There are infinite opportunities to do so. Freedom is having no options. When God's way is the **ONLY** way, then you are truly free!]
- (e) This vastly reduces the amount of time and coding required to develop and debug an application, while ensuring that **users can control, configure and manage the system hardware through a common and well-understood interface.** [THINK IN BIBLE!]
- (f) An **operating system is the most important software that runs on a computer.** It manages the computer's

memory and processes, as well as all of its software and hardware. It also allows you to communicate with the computer without knowing how to speak the computer's language. **Without an operating system, a computer is useless. [Without the law, the universe would collapse.]**

1. See [Legal Matter](#) for a detailed study about how Y'shua's ministry emphasized how to apply the law (OS) in everyday circumstances (APPS)!
 - a) Legal Matters: Y'shua utilized the law to navigate the rough terrain of first-century legalism and to reveal just how to apply His Father's commands in everyday life circumstances.
 - b) He took the law out of the Book and used it to rule on specific legal matters, thereby turning law into case law.
 - c) He did that in two ways:
 - 1) First: during actual events, like the woman accused of adultery.
 - 2) Second: by displaying in a fictional story how He would rule; we call those parables. Parables are meant to establish case law.

- d) In both ways He operated as the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Heaven, thus setting precedent for all who would follow.
- e) Righteous Living = proper application of God's law to every circumstance!

B. You cannot delete (format) the OS. The APPS simply won't function. Apps can't run on their own.

- (1) Paul was not referring to the whole law in verses 1-6—just one specific law as an object lesson!
 - (a) As he so often does, Paul takes pause to insure his readers DO NOT misconstrue what he just said.
 - 1. "What shall we say then? **Is the law sin?** Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."" Romans 7:7 NKJV
 - 2. After he drops a prophetic truth bomb, Paul always slows down so everyone can catch up.
 - a) He knows that what he is revealing is complicated and will be difficult to digest for most people—especially for those who don't know anything about the Torah.

- b) It's hard enough for scholars; even Paul took years to sort through the relationship of Christ to the law.
- c) And Christ Himself taught us that even the Scribes had to be instructed in things concerning the kingdom.

1) *"Then He said to them, "Therefore **every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom** of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."* Matthew 13:52 NKJV

C. Paul used clarifying questions each time he predicted his readers might misconstrue what he was saying!

(1) Ten times in Romans a leading question is asked for a dramatic effect to make a point

(a) Then Paul answers them for us with an emphatic, **"Certainly not!"**

1. "For what if some did not believe? **Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?**

Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged."" Romans 3:3-4 NKJV

2. "**Is God unjust** who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) **Certainly not!**" Romans 3:5 NKJV

3. **“Do we then make void the law through faith?
Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”**
Romans 3:31 NKJV
4. **“Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
Certainly not!”** Romans 6:1 NKJV
5. **“Shall we sin because we are not under law but
under grace? Certainly not!”** Romans 6:15 NKJV
6. **“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly
not!”** Romans 7:7 NKJV
7. **“Has then what is good become death to me?
Certainly not!”** Romans 7:13 NKJV
8. **“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness
with God? Certainly not!”** Romans 9:14 NKJV
9. **“I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly
not!”** Romans 11:1 NKJV
10. **“I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall?
Certainly not!”** Romans 11:11 NKJV

D. Is the law obsolete?

(1) Misinterpretation

- (a) For all those who somehow determined that Romans 7:1-6 should be interpreted in a way that makes the totality of the Torah obsolete for Christians, as if it would

even be sinful to consider such of any value, you'd be dreadfully wrong.

1. Remember, the law was codified so that all of humanity would be without excuse!
 - a) No longer could there be plausible deniability.
 - b) "I did not know," is unacceptable, and the modern euphemism agrees; "Ignorance of the law is no excuse."
 - c) Earlier in Romans Paul wrote it like this, "For as many as have sinned without law will perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."
 - 1) *"For as many as have **sinned without law will also perish without law**, and as many as have **sinned in the law will be judged by the law.**"*
Romans 2:12 NKJV
 - 2) *"Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for **by the law is the knowledge of sin.**"* Romans 3:20 NKJV
 - d) And might we reemphasize what should be obvious by now to those who believe.

- 1) The pagan world is happy to define their own ethics, but let that not be true of God's people.
 - 2) God is the one who defines sin, not the prevailing social mores.
 - 3) *"Sin is Lawlessness."* I John 3:4 NKJV
 - 4) *"**Your word** I have hidden in my heart, **that I might not sin** against You."* Psalms 119:11 NKJV
- e) If you remove that which defines sin, you invalidate the very fabric of the universe—the operating system of creation.
 - f) God said, "Let there be, and there was!"
 - g) David remembers how the word of God, in the law of God, spoke creation into existence.
 - 1) *"The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork."* Psalms 19:1 NKJV (see all Psalms 19)
 - h) Remove the words and the universe will collapse into nothing.
 - 1) *"Uphold me according to Your word, **that I may live**; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope."* Psalms 119:116 NKJV

2) ***“The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”*** Psalms 119:160 NKJV

- i) Think of the Torah as the operating system of the universe and the everyday function of laws as the applications.
- j) Follow Y’shua as He ministers to the people and raises up His disciples and what you will notice is that His entire ministry demonstrated the proper application of the law.
- k) He did not abolish it; He applied it with correct spiritual inspiration and discernment.
 - 1) In Matthew 5:17-19, He says He did not come to destroy (make null) the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill (institute/practice to their fullest). And whoever does and teaches them will be great.
- l) Even the applications on the very devices you depend on every day function only because beneath the surface is an operating system.
 - 1) You cannot load the apps and then remove the operating system and expect the device to function at all!

- 2) Sin could not be judged and mitigated using the correct application if there was no law on which to operate. (*"Sin is Lawlessness."* I John 3:4)

CASE LAW: THE LAW IN ACTION

3. Object Lesson

A. The Perfect Case

- (1) In one such "legal case" in which a woman is being accused of adultery (John 8:1-12), Y'shua applies the Law (the legal operating system) to release her.

(a) Just imagine the scene!

1. "Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees **brought to Him a woman caught in adultery**. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, "Teacher, **this woman was caught in adultery**, in the very act. Now Moses, in **the law**, **commanded us that such should be stoned**. But what do You say?" This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. **But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger**, as though He did not hear. So when they

continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, **“He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”** And again **He stooped down and wrote on the ground.** Then those who heard it, being **convicted by their conscience, went out one by one,** beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, **“Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”** She said, **“No one, Lord.”** And Jesus said to her, **“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **“I am the light of the world.** He who follows Me **shall not walk in darkness,** but have the light of life.”” John 8:2-12 NKJV

2. A woman is supposedly caught in the very act adultery.
 - a) The law of Moses commands she be stoned.
 - b) The scribes and Pharisees are testing Y’shua to see if they can accuse him of nullifying the law.
 - c) Of course, He declared previously, ***“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I***

did not come to destroy but to fulfill.“ Matthew
5:17 NKJV

3. Y’shua’s Response:

- a) He kneels down and writes something in the dust with His finger without saying a word, as if He did not hear them. (What did He write?)
- b) They asked again and His response, “I invite all those who have no hidden sins to begin stoning this woman!”
- c) Again, He kneels down and writes something in the dust with His finger. (What did He write?)

4. The reaction of the scribes and Pharisees:

- a) One-by-one they drop their stones and walked away as each felt utter conviction. (For what?)
- b) Y’shua was left there alone with the NO LONGER accused woman.

5. What did Y’shua do next?

- a) He asked the woman if there remained anyone to accuse and condemn her? The answer is no one.
- b) He then forgives ALL her sins, even though there is no evidence that the accusation of adultery is true. “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

c) He reveals to the woman that He is the light of the world—she need not ever walk in darkness again!

(b) What did Y'shua write on the ground?

1. "O Lord, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You shall be ashamed. **"Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth,** Because they have forsaken the Lord, The fountain of living waters."" Jeremiah 17:13 NKJV

2. It is likely He wrote the names and the sins of those who thought to accuse her in the earth, as He exposed their hidden wickedness.

a) They dropped their stones one-by-one and disbanded.

b) Picture this: Y'shua kneeling down as He searched their hearts and exposed their wickedness, and then He wrote their sins next to their names in the earth.

c) Each of them was about to get what he deserves for his own hidden sins and wickedness!

1) "Thus says the Lord: **"Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord.** For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not

see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit. **"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings."** Jeremiah 17:5-10 NKJV

- (c) *"Where are your accusers?"* The law requires at least two witnesses.
1. "Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of **two or three witnesses**; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. " Deuteronomy 17:6 NKJV
 2. If there are at least two witnesses this woman might have been held liable.

- a) In the end there were none, but Y'shua and the Holy Spirit were certainly witnesses to the sins of these accusers!
- b) All guilty parties in the sight of the Lord would have been subject to the penalty for transgressing His covenant.
- 1) "If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you, **a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the Lord** your God, **in transgressing His covenant**, who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded, and it is told you, and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel, **then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.**" Deuteronomy 17:2-5 NKJV

(d) Note: this is NOT just an Old Testament Mandate

1. "This will be the third time I am coming to you. **"By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."**" II Corinthians 13:1 NKJV
2. "'Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that **'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'**" Matthew 18:15-16 NKJV
3. "Do not receive an accusation against an elder **except from two or three witnesses.**" I Timothy 5:19 NKJV
4. "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment**, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has **trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a**

common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

“ Hebrews 10:26-29 NKJV

(e) *“Where is the man?”* The law requires both parties to be present?

1. *“The man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, **the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.**”* Leviticus 20:10 NKJV

2. The woman was presented to Y’shua alone!

a) If caught in adultery, both the man and woman must stand accused together!

(f) Penalty for false witnesses

1. *“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.** If a **false witness** rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, **if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so***

you shall put away the evil from among you. And **those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil** among you.”

Deuteronomy 19:15-20 NKJV

2. Were any of these scribes and Pharisees truly present to witness what they had accused this woman of doing?
 - a) In the end, we really don't know.
 - b) What we do know is that each one of them was guilty of their own wicked behavior.
 - c) Plus, the punishment for bearing false witness is that you are subject to the exact punishment you were hoping to dole out...
 - d) If they had not disbanded, it might have been Y'shua standing there with a stone in His hand.
- (g) The law is the Operating System of Creation! Y'shua established His ruling by running His application on that operating system. The (false) witnesses have gone and there is no guilty man present, so the correct ruling **according to the Torah** is that she is freed. *“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more!”*
- (h) Y'shua did not nullify or change the Law, He applied it!

- 1) *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.**”* Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV
- 2) Notice that Y’shua had to “know the law” so He could draw from many different areas at once to amalgamate the proper ruling!
- 3) This is how you fill the law to its fullest, to understand, teach it, and apply it to its full capacity!
- 4) And that is precisely why Paul begins Romans 7 with this mandate: *“Or do you not know, brethren (for **I speak to those who know the law**), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?”* (Romans 7:1)
- (i) You are charged with doing the same!
 - 1) *“Do we then **make void the law through faith?** Certainly not! On the contrary, **we establish the law.**”* Romans 3:31 NKJV

B. Proper Perspectives (back to Romans 7)

- (1) Paul shifts back to teaching how the entirety of the law is the Operating System of Creation

- (a) The law was meant to produce a clearly defined result!
1. "But sin, **taking opportunity** by the commandment, **produced in me** all manner of **evil desire**. For **apart from the law sin was dead**. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, **sin revived and I died**. And the commandment, which was to bring life, **I found to bring death**. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, **deceived me**, and by it **killed me**." Romans 7:8-11 NKJV
 2. It's all a matter of seeing things with the proper perspective.
 - a) Once it is clear that you are infected with sin, as all humans are, the proper treatment also becomes more evident.
 - b) Think of sin as a living creature that is skulking around in search of a host in which to inject its venom. In fact, sin has a desire to rule you and your job is to rule it!
 - 1) *"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And **its desire is for you, but you should rule over it**."*
Genesis 4:7 NKJV

- c) The law nurtures the fertile soil in which sin grows and spreads.
 - 1) If there was no law to expose your sin nature, then sin would just die for lack of nourishment.
 - 2) But there is also a very deceptive side of this equation, the side which leaves a person unaware of the festering infection in their bones.
 - 3) They think they are living life without any hinderance to what they see as good, only to one day recognize that their version of good is just pure evil.
- d) The law is the tool God uses to expose this infection.
 - 1) Once the law becomes known, it reveals that death has already spread throughout your body.
 - 2) That is the life-giving purpose of the law.
 - 3) It seems to be quite the opposite at first because it initially exposes the infection.
 - 4) But, if you are humble enough to open your eyes, you will admit it actually illuminated the path to recovery—life from death.
- e) Sin does its best works as a covert insidious enemy.

- 1) It would prefer to stay hidden for as long as possible, so that once a diagnosis is made, it's too late—death is imminent.
 - 2) Great news! As long as you still have one breath in your lungs, it's not too late.
- (2) The law without faith is death. Yet, faith without the law is unnecessary.
- (a) If you have no law, you have no sin; if you have no sin, you have no death; if you have no death, you need no Savior. And...
1. "Therefore the **law is holy**, and the commandment **holy** and **just** and **good**." Romans 7:12 NKJV
 2. Altered Perspective
 - a) When you see the law for what it was truly meant for, as the operating system of creation, the means to show you the way of death and the way of life, it will alter your perspective.
 - b) Now the law is not something to dread, but something that will help you understand God's holiness and His plan for you to join Him as His purely sanctified children.

C. **What makes the law, the operating system of creation, holy and just and good?**

(1) Again, think about it...

(a) Sin is defined by the law; if there is no law, there is no sin, and if there is no sin, there is no need for a Savior.

1. "Has then what is good become **death to me?**

Certainly not! **But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death** in me through what is good, **so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.** For we know that **the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.**" Romans 7:13-14 NKJV

2. The law which delivers a verdict of death also provides within its statutes an offer for life and that's what makes it so good. *"For the woman who has a husband is **bound by the law** to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is **released from the law** of her husband."* Romans 7:2 NKJV

a) If your heart is hardened you will judge what God intended for good as if it is evil, what God intended to bring life as if it could only produce death.

b) That's precisely what the enemy of your soul hopes you will conclude.

- c) It's as if you are hanging by a thread over a bottomless cavern and the solution to your survival is to let go.
 - 1) You can keep hanging on hoping that the fraying fibers won't break, but they will. And that's the deception. You can't save yourself.
 - 2) It won't be until you recognize why you are hanging there, and then become willing to admit your faults, that you are infected with sin, that the answer will appear.
 - 3) The fabric of God's creation exposed you, and that is a good thing, a holy thing, a spiritual thing, and the diagnosis is terminal.
- d) Say it out loud if necessary; "I am infected with a disease and it's killing me and I need someone to save me."
- e) And then let go and you will fall right into the arms of a loving God.
 - 1) God's law is the operating system of creation, the fabric of the universe. You can see it as oppressive and death defining, or you can take on a whole new perspective; the law is spiritual; the law is holy; the law is just; and the law is

good. “You’ve heard it said, *‘What is good has become death to me.’* But I say, *‘When the infection of sin in your blood is exposed by God’s operating system, a simple shift in perspective will show you that this is God’s way of saving your life, not His oppressive design to kill you!’*” It’s all a matter of perspective.

Summary: UNTIL DEATH DO US PART

1. The Law! What Law?

A. Why does this application of the law logically follow the teachings of chapter six?

(1) Hint from Chapter 6: “For he who ***has died*** has been ***freed from sin.***” (Romans 6:7) Death of the old man, of sin, and of our marriage to Satan.

(a) Don’t you know!

1. Why must you know the law to know what Paul is teaching?

a) Don’t you know? Here we are with the words Paul has chosen to follow his deep revelation about how the redemption story of Christ is indeed a Passover story.

- 1) We went from captivity, into the wilderness, and then into the promised land.
 - 2) Christ died and we died with Him; Christ was buried and we were buried with Him; Christ resurrected and we are raised with Him as new creatures.
 - 3) In the Torah we see this precise pattern in the Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits.
- b) The point here in chapter seven: Don't you know that I am addressing those who know the law and can recognize the patterns?
- 1) Only those who understand God's law and how it guides you and instructs you in your everyday lifestyle and decisions can comprehend what Paul is about to say.
 - 2) It is literally a matter of life and death; "Don't you know that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?"
- c) We must pause to address what this means or the rest of this narrative will be twisted.
- d) Even Peter understood that Paul introduced difficult topics that were hard to understand. Peter

exposed how untaught and unstable people would twist Paul's words to their own destruction, as mankind so commonly does with the Scriptures.

- 1) That is why understanding that *"the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives"* requires the perspective of someone who actually knows the law, otherwise Paul would not have emphasized the critical nature of having such knowledge prior to introducing this subject.
- e) For the better part of nearly 2000 years, since these words were scribed, Paul's thoughts have been misconstrued, misinterpreted, and misappropriated by those who don't know the law.
- f) Here in the first six verses of Romans seven, the law to which Paul refers is NOT the entirety of the Torah, as if there comes a time when we are no longer bound to it; instead, it addresses the specific law of marriage that has a binding effect "until death do us part!"

B. Bound by THE Law "until death do us part!"

(1) What Law?

(a) Who dies?

1. Now we have the proper context and recognize Paul is referring here to a specific law...
 - a) What he is revealing? Why does this follow immediately after the revelation in chapter six?
 - b) Reminder:
 - 1) Romans is a letter, not a book with chapters.
 - 2) Chapters and verses, and even random headings, were added later as reference points.
 - c) The revelation in chapter six would have seamlessly flowed to the start of chapter seven, which would naturally remain in context.
 - 1) It takes a death to be released from the bond of marriage.
 - 2) And is that not precisely what we previously discovered—Christ died and we died with Him?
 - d) The take-away here is that we have, by law, been released from our previous marriage.
 - 1) We were bound by the specific law of marriage as long as we or our spouse remains alive.
 - 2) Once there is a death, the very law of marriage that bound us together also provides a release clause.

e) Do not overlook that this is not only a reference to a specific law, but that specific law has a condition.

1) It is applicable only to married people.

(2) Those who know the law...

(a) We are talking about the command of Yahweh governing marriage (Genesis 2:22-24) and remarriage.

1. It is clear in the Old Testament that Yahweh supports remarriage after the death of a spouse.

a) Abraham remarried after Sarah died (Genesis 25:1).

b) It was the obligation of a brother to marry his widowed sister-in-law (Deuteronomy 25:5).

c) And the entire book of Ruth is about the Kinsman Redeemer who rescues a widow by marrying her.

(b) Let NOT MAN separate!

1. Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce because of the hardness of your heart.

a) God's plan: the two shall become one flesh...let not man separate.

(c) Look also at what Paul says elsewhere when he is giving specific advice about marriage.

1. Notice the stipulation!

- a) Remarriage, after the death of a husband, requires that the next husband is in Christ!

(3) THAT law!

(a) Adulteress or Not an Adulteress?

1. Permission to remarry!

- a) If you ignore the law and leave your spouse to marry someone else, you will be committing adultery.
- b) But if your spouse dies you are free, under that specific law, to legally remarry.
- c) With the two-thousand-year-old blinders lifted, it should be easy to discern that Paul is being granular here; he says, “She is free from THAT law!”
- d) He is not revealing some mechanism by which we can be freed from all of God’s laws!
 - 1) Who is the husband?
 - 2) How has he died?
 - 3) Who is the other man to whom you will marry?
 - 4) What is THAT law from which she is released?

C. The Legal Release

(1) Dead to the Law

- (a) A specific clause in a specific law has been activated!

1. Christ died and you died with Him and that activated the “out clause” (a provision within a contract that allows either party to terminate the agreement under specific conditions).
 - a) Why is Paul being so granular here, and why now?
 - b) He just shared a deep revelation:
 - 1) Each of us died with Christ and resurrected as a new man.
 - 2) Every Christian must believe that!
 - c) Now he is revealing how the Torah contains a specific law that makes our future marriage to Christ legal!
 - 1) If there is a death, there is a release from the bond of marriage.
 - 2) In this instance, Christ died and we died in Christ, so according to the law you are legally permitted to remarry.
 - d) Ironically, the very law that modern-day Christianity wants to abolish, set aside as legalism, and designate to the antique pile, contains within it the statute that permits the church to become the bride of Christ.

- 1) The Torah also contains the statute that authorizes the blood of Christ to save you.
 - 2) Ask yourself why the blood of Christ has the power to redeem you! It's because the law says so!
 - 3) If you abolish the law; your status as the bride of Christ and your means to eternal life is abolished with it!
- e) Now, move past thinking just in the natural and focus your prophetic antenna on the spiritual.
- 1) Yes, this law of marriage applies to your life, but don't just imagine your marital status as a human when you consider this law.
- f) From a spiritual perspective answer two questions:
- 1) Could you have been single when you met Christ?
 - 2) Does this law, which is applicable only to those who are previously married, even apply to you?
 - 3) With absolute certainty the answers are: you were definitely married and the law does apply.
- g) This then begs a further question:
- 1) To whom were we already married?
- (2) You were never single!

- (a) You were held by or married to sin and Satan.
 - 1. Delivered from that law that binds us to our old marriage.
 - a) The law was codified to expose the sinful human nature.
 - b) Prior to Christ, we were all living within the bond of marriage to sinful passions, and the progeny of that intimate relationship was death.
 - c) Now, as you receive Paul's words in context, it should be clear.
 - 1) According to the law, death has released you from what was holding you in covenant to your previous marriage.
 - 2) The death is exactly what Paul revealed in the previous chapter.
 - d) "You were bound in marriage to sin, but now you have been set free from that bond."
 - e) And because of that release (death), there is a very specific statute within the Torah that grants permission for you to remarry.
 - a) The letter of the law bound you for life to sin and Satan as your spouse, but then death

released you when you resurrected as a new creature with a new Spirit in you.

b) And that new person is free to marry again.

Summary: THE tOS AND ITS APPS

2. tOS: Torah Operating System and Applications

A. Definitions: OS and APPS

(1) What is an operating system (OS)?

(a) An operating system (OS) is the program that, after being initially loaded into the computer or device by a boot program, **manages all of the other application programs in a computer. The application programs make use of the operating system** by making requests for services through a defined **application program interface** (API).

(b) In addition, users can interact directly with the operating system through a user interface, such as a command-line interface (CLI) or a graphical UI (GUI).

(2) Why use an operating system?

(a) An operating system brings powerful benefits to computer software and software development. **Without an operating system, every application would need to include its own user interface (UI), as well as the**

comprehensive code needed to handle all low-level functionality of the underlying computer, such as disk storage, network interfaces and so on.

- (b) Considering the vast array of underlying hardware available, **this would vastly bloat the size of every application and make software development impractical.**
- (c) Instead, many common tasks can be offloaded to system software that **serves as an intermediary between the applications and the hardware. The system software provides a consistent and repeatable way for applications to interact with the hardware without the applications needing to know any details about the hardware.**
- (d) As long as each application accesses the same resources and services in the same way, that system software—the operating system—can service almost any number of applications. **[Note: this is exactly how we are to consider each decision of our life. Everything (every application) must be filtered through the same system (God's law). There are infinite opportunities to do so. Freedom is having no options. When God's way is the ONLY way, then you are truly free!]**

- (e) This vastly reduces the amount of time and coding required to develop and debug an application, while ensuring that **users can control, configure and manage the system hardware through a common and well-understood interface.** **[THINK IN BIBLE!]**
- (f) An **operating system is the most important software that runs on a computer.** It manages the computer's memory and processes, as well as all of its software and hardware. It also allows you to communicate with the computer without knowing how to speak the computer's language. **Without an operating system, a computer is useless.** **[Without the law, the universe would collapse.]**
- 1. See [Legal Matter](#) for a detailed study about how Y'shua's ministry emphasized how to apply the law (OS) in everyday circumstances (APPS)!
 - a) Legal Matters: Y'shua utilized the law to navigate the rough terrain of first-century legalism and to reveal just how to apply His Father's commands in everyday life circumstances.
 - b) He took the law out of the Book and used it to rule on specific legal matters, thereby turning law into case law.

- c) He did that in two ways:
 - 1) First: during actual events, like the woman accused of adultery.
 - 2) Second: by displaying in a fictional story how He would rule; we call those parables. Parables are meant to establish case law.
- d) In both ways He operated as the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Heaven, thus setting precedent for all who would follow.
- e) Righteous Living = proper application of God's law to every circumstance!

B. You cannot delete (format) the OS. The APPS simply won't function. Apps can't run on their own.

- (1) Paul was not referring to the whole law in verses 1-6—just one specific law as an object lesson!
 - (a) As he so often does, Paul takes pause to insure his readers DO NOT misconstrue what he just said.
 - 1. After he drops a prophetic truth bomb, Paul always slows down so everyone can catch up.
 - a) He knows that what he is revealing is complicated and will be difficult to digest for most people—especially for those who don't know anything about the Torah.

- b) It's hard enough for scholars; even Paul took years to sort through the relationship of Christ to the law.
- c) And Christ Himself taught us that even the Scribes had to be instructed in things concerning the kingdom.

C. Paul used clarifying questions each time he predicted his readers might misconstrue what he was saying!

- (1) Ten times in Romans a leading question is asked for a dramatic effect to make a point
 - (a) Then Paul answers them for us with an emphatic, **"Certainly not!"**

D. Is the law obsolete?

- (1) Misinterpretation
 - (a) For all those who somehow determined that Romans 7:1-6 should be interpreted in a way that makes the totality of the Torah obsolete for Christians, as if it would even be sinful to consider such of any value, you'd be dreadfully wrong.
- 1. Remember, the law was codified so that all of humanity would be without excuse!
 - a) No longer could there be plausible deniability.

- b) "I did not know," is unacceptable, and the modern euphemism agrees; "Ignorance of the law is no excuse."
- c) Earlier in Romans Paul wrote it like this, "For as many as have sinned without law will perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."
- d) And might we reemphasize what should be obvious by now to those who believe.
 - 1) The pagan world is happy to define their own ethics, but let that not be true of God's people.
 - 2) God is the one who defines sin, not the prevailing social mores.
- e) If you remove that which defines sin, you invalidate the very fabric of the universe—the operating system of creation.
- f) God said, "Let there be, and there was!"
- g) David remembers how the word of God, in the law of God, spoke creation into existence.
- h) Remove the words and the universe will collapse into nothing.

- i) Think of the Torah as the operating system of the universe and the everyday function of laws as the applications.
- j) Follow Y'shua as He ministers to the people and raises up His disciples and what you will notice is that His entire ministry demonstrated the proper application of the law.
- k) He did not abolish it; He applied it with correct spiritual inspiration and discernment.
 - 1) In Matthew 5:17-19, He says He did not come to destroy (make null) the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill (institute/practice to their fullest). And whoever does and teaches them will be great.
- l) Even the applications on the very devices you depend on every day function only because beneath the surface is an operating system.
 - 1) You cannot load the apps and then remove the operating system and expect the device to function at all!
 - 2) Sin could not be judged and mitigated using the correct application if there was no law on which to operate. (*"Sin is Lawlessness."* I John 3:4)

Summary: CASE LAW: THE LAW IN ACTION

3. Object Lesson

A. The Perfect Case

(1) In one such “legal case” in which a woman is being accused of adultery (John 8:1-12), Y’shua applies the Law (the legal operating system) to release her.

(a) Just imagine the scene!

1. A woman is supposedly caught in the very act of adultery.

a) The law of Moses commands she be stoned.

b) The scribes and Pharisees are testing Y’shua to see if they can accuse him of nullifying the law.

c) Of course, He declared previously, “***Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.***”

2. Y’shua’s Response:

a) He kneels down and writes something in the dust with His finger without saying a word, as if He did not hear them. (What did He write?)

b) They asked again and His response, “I invite all those who have no hidden sins to begin stoning this woman!”

- c) Again, He kneels down and writes something in the dust with His finger. (What did He write?)
3. The reaction of the scribes and Pharisees:
- a) One-by-one they drop their stones and walked away as each felt utter conviction. (For what?)
 - b) Y'shua was left there alone with the NO LONGER accused woman.
4. What did Y'shua do next?
- a) He asked the woman if there remained anyone to accuse and condemn her? The answer is no one.
 - b) He then forgives ALL her sins, even though there is no evidence that the accusation of adultery is true. "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."
 - c) He reveals to the woman that He is the light of the world—she need not ever walk in darkness again!
- (b) What did Y'shua write on the ground?
- 1. It is likely He wrote the names and the sins of those who thought to accuse her in the earth, as He exposed their hidden wickedness.
 - a) They dropped their stones one-by-one and disbanded.
 - b) Picture this: Y'shua kneeling down as He searched their hearts and exposed their wickedness, and

then He wrote their sins next to their names in the earth.

- c) Each of them was about to get what he deserves for his own hidden sins and wickedness!

(c) *“Where are your accusers?”* The law requires at least two witnesses.

1. If there are at least two witnesses this woman might have been held liable.

- a) In the end there were none, but Y’shua and the Holy Spirit were certainly witnesses to the sins of these accusers!

- b) All guilty parties in the sight of the Lord would have been subject to the penalty for transgressing His covenant.

(d) Note: this is NOT just an Old Testament Mandate

(e) *“Where is the man?”* The law requires both parties to be present?

1. The woman was presented to Y’shua alone!

- a) If caught in adultery, both the man and woman must stand accused together!

(f) Penalty for false witnesses

1. Were any of these scribes and Pharisees truly present to witness what they had accused this woman of doing?
 - a) In the end, we really don't know.
 - b) What we do know is that each one of them was guilty of their own wicked behavior.
 - c) Plus, the punishment for bearing false witness is that you are subject to the exact punishment you were hoping to dole out...
 - d) If they had not disbanded, it might have been Y'shua standing there with a stone in His hand.
- (g) The law is the Operating System of Creation! Y'shua established His ruling by running His application on that operating system. The (false) witnesses have gone and there is no guilty man present, so the correct ruling **according to the Torah** is that she is freed. *"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more!"*
- (h) Y'shua did not nullify or change the Law, He applied it!
 - 1) Notice that Y'shua had to "know the law" so He could draw from many different areas at once to amalgamate the proper ruling!
 - 2) This is how you fill the law to its fullest, to understand, teach it, and apply it to its full capacity!

3) And that is precisely why Paul begins Romans 7 with this mandate:

(i) You are charged with doing the same!

B. Proper Perspectives (back to Romans 7)

(1) Paul shifts back to teaching how the entirety of the law is the Operating System of Creation

(a) The law was meant to produce a clearly defined result!

1. It's all a matter of seeing things with the proper perspective.

a) Once it is clear that you are infected with sin, as all humans are, the proper treatment also becomes more evident.

b) Think of sin as a living creature that is skulking around in search of a host in which to inject its venom. In fact, sin has a desire to rule you and your job is to rule it!

c) The law nurtures the fertile soil in which sin grows and spreads.

1) If there was no law to expose your sin nature, then sin would just die for lack of nourishment.

2) But there is also a very deceptive side of this equation, the side which leaves a person unaware of the festering infection in their bones.

- 3) They think they are living life without any hinderance to what they see as good, only to one day recognize that their version of good is just pure evil.
- d) The law is the tool God uses to expose this infection.
 - 1) Once the law becomes known, it reveals that death has already spread throughout your body.
 - 2) That is the life-giving purpose of the law.
 - 3) It seems to be quite the opposite at first because it initially exposes the infection.
 - 4) But, if you are humble enough to open your eyes, you will admit it actually illuminated the path to recovery—life from death.
- e) Sin does its best works as a covert insidious enemy.
 - 1) It would prefer to stay hidden for as long as possible, so that once a diagnosis is made, it's too late—death is imminent.
 - 2) Great news! As long as you still have one breath in your lungs, it's not too late.
- (2) The law without faith is death. Yet, faith without the law is unnecessary.

- (a) If you have no law, you have no sin; if you have no sin, you have no death; if you have no death, you need no Savior. And...

- 1. Altered Perspective

- a) When you see the law for what it was truly meant for, as the operating system of creation, the means to show you the way of death and the way of life, it will alter your perspective.
 - b) Now the law is not something to dread, but something that will help you understand God's holiness and His plan for you to join Him as His purely sanctified children.

C. What makes the law, the operating system of creation, holy and just and good?

- (1) Again, think about it...

- (a) Sin is defined by the law; if there is no law, there is no sin, and if there is no sin, there is no need for a Savior.

- 1. The law which delivers a verdict of death also provides within its statutes an offer for life and that's what makes it so good.

- a) If your heart is hardened you will judge what God intended for good as if it is evil, what God

intended to bring life as if it could only produce death.

- b) That's precisely what the enemy of your soul hopes you will conclude.
- c) It's as if you are hanging by a thread over a bottomless cavern and the solution to your survival is to let go.
 - 1) You can keep hanging on hoping that the fraying fibers won't break, but they will. And that's the deception. You can't save yourself.
 - 2) It won't be until you recognize why you are hanging there, and then become willing to admit your faults, that you are infected with sin, that the answer will appear.
 - 3) The fabric of God's creation exposed you, and that is a good thing, a holy thing, a spiritual thing, and the diagnosis is terminal.
- d) Say it out loud if necessary; "I am infected with a disease and it's killing me and I need someone to save me."
- e) And then let go and you will fall right into the arms of a loving God.

- 1) God's law is the operating system of creation, the fabric of the universe. You can see it as oppressive and death defining, or you can take on a whole new perspective; the law is spiritual; the law is holy; the law is just; and the law is good. "You've heard it said, ***'What is good has become death to me.'*** But I say, ***'When the infection of sin in your blood is exposed by God's operating system, a simple shift in perspective will show you that this is God's way of saving your life, not His oppressive design to kill you!'***" It's all a matter of perspective.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION (REFER TO NOTES TO HELP YOUR ANSWERS)

1. **"Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?" Romans 7:1 NKJV**
 - A. Why must you know the law to know what Paul is teaching?
 - B. What is it that is taught in chapter six that makes this stipulation so important in chapter seven?

C. What is it that Peter said about Paul that should inspire you to be very sharp when considering Paul's words? (See II Peter 3:14-16)

2. "For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband." Romans 7:2 NKJV

A. To what law is Paul referring? (To help amalgamate your answer see: Genesis 2:22-24; 25:1; Deuteronomy 25:5; Mark 10:2-12; I Corinthians 7:39)

B. How is a release from that law effectuated?

C. How is the release related to the content of chapter six?

3. "So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man." Romans 7:3 NKJV

A. Why does Romans 7:3 specifically refer to "that law?"

B. Who is the husband?

C. How has he died?

D. Who is the other man to whom you will marry?

E. What is THAT law from which she is released?

4. "Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to

another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.” Romans 7:4 NKJV

- A. When Paul says you have become dead to the law, what does he mean? (Hint: Romans 6:11)
- B. Why and to whom will this allow you to remarry?

5. Were any of us single prior to our introduction to Christ? (See Romans 7:5-6)

- A. Use Romans 6:17-22 to clarify your answer and to state specially to whom you were precious married.

6. Essay Assignment:

- A. Write a descriptive essay comparing the operating system in a computer or mobile device with their programs and apps to God’s law as the operating system of creation with practical life applications. (Read sermon notes pages 27-31 to help.)

7. How does the following scripture support this statement?

“You cannot delete or format the Operating System and expect the programs or applications to function.”

- A. “What shall we say then? **Is the law sin?** Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”” Romans 7:7 NKJV

- B. How does the first part of this verse demonstrate how, after Paul drops a prophetic truth bomb, he always slows down so everyone can catch up?
- C. How does Matthew 13:52 show us that training is necessary if we wish to understand the depth of God's word?

8. Read John 8:1-12. How is this a perfect object lesson for Romans 7:1?

- A. Describe all the ways that Y'shua is upholding the law in the way He deals with the woman accused of adultery.
- B. Consider in your narrative Y'shua's attitude about the law; the laws about witnesses, what Y'shua might have written on the ground; and specific requirements to convict someone of adultery.
- C. Hint: Matthew 5:17-18; Jeremiah 17:5-13; Deuteronomy 17:2-6; Matthew 18:15-16; I Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:26-29; Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 19:15-20
- D. How does John 8:1-12 perfectly depict Romans 3:31?

9. With all you have learned in this lesson, what is now the proper perspective on the law?

- A. Use Romans 7:8-14 and Genesis 4:7, and frame your answer around what you learned about God's law as the Operating System of Creation.