

NO, BUT YES! RULES PEOPLE - ROMANS 7:14-25

A few things to consider when reading this paragraph.

- In verses 7-13, most of the verbs are in the *past tense*.
- In verses 14-25, apart from one in the *future tense*, all verbs are in the *present tense*.
- In the previous paragraph, Paul had been talking about an assault by sin, stirred up by the law, which killed him (vs11)
- Now he's describing an inner conflict which goes on and on

5. What are the indications that Paul is speaking about life as a mature believer?

TRUTH TIME... SOME THINGS TO NOTE

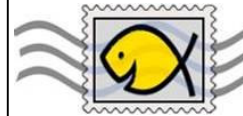
- Neither the believer or unbeliever can keep the Law
- The Law is delightful and we long to keep it
- Though our old life is dead (6:6) the old nature isn't (7:17)
- Despair! The Law cannot help me here
- Rejoice! There is a way, apart from Law, to deal with the body of sin that condemns me to death.

6. Explain Paul's conclusion and the place of the Law from vs25

The Law of God

Purpose: To convict the whole world of sin (3:19) and to reveal the Holy character of God

Place: To direct the believer towards Jesus Christ in salvation and to govern the mind of the believer in discerning the will of God.



**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES
TEACH AND THIS WE
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

THE LAW OF GOD



PART I

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

John 14:15

THE LAW OF GOD - PART I

Romans Chapter 7

God's will (His precepts), also known as His commandments have been declared plainly to us throughout the Old and New Testament. However, confusion has abounded throughout the centuries about the place and purpose of the Law in the life of the believer.

The aim of this study will be to make clear the proper purpose of the law and its place in the believers life.

GOD'S LAW - WHAT IS IT?

The word "law" in scripture is used in many senses:

- Of the Old Testament, (Rom 3:19; Matt 5:17)
- Of the Pentateuch (first 5 books - Luke 24:44)
- Of the laws that came through Moses (Rom 5:13)
- Of the whole Scripture (James 2:8)

1. What does Paul *primarily* mean by "the law" in Romans 7?

ATTITUDES TO THE LAW

Stuart Olyott in his book, *This Way to Godliness* suggests Paul, in Romans Chapter 7, is addressing three kinds of people. "Rules People", "No Rules People" and "No, but Yes! Rules People."

The "Rules People" say, "If I keep the rules, all will be well with my Christian life and if I don't keep the rules, I will not be doing well at all!"

The "No Rules People" say, "I am released from the Law, now I just follow the Spirit".

The "No, but Yes! Rules People" say, "I know that I am free from the Laws' power to condemn me, but I delight in the Law, which is the will of God for my life."

RULES PEOPLE - ROMANS 7:1-6

2. How does our relationship to the Law differ from our relationship to sin? (cf. 6:17)

These verses teach that,

- We (believers) are not slaves of rules, not even God's rules
- The Law aroused my sinful nature
- The Law hasn't died - But we have! (Eph 2:1)

3. Is the woman in verses 1-5 now free to commit adultery?

The law brings to light our sin (vs5) and kills us. It cannot justify or sanctify us. But, union with a New Husband will do both.

4. In what sense then have you been released from the Law?

NO RULES PEOPLE - ROMANS 7:7-13

True or false, "The rules spell nothing but trouble"?

A few things the "No Rules People" should know,

- The Law highlights your sinful nature (vs7)
- It's not the Law that's the problem, its you! (vs8)
- The law pronounces judgement (vs8-11)

The Law holds out life in one hand and judgement in the other (Gal 3:10-12).

In other words, the Law, reflecting the character of God, does exactly what it ought. It highlights our incredible wickedness and the futility of trying to defeat sin (and be right with God) through our own ability. It makes us long for another way and is therefore Holy, Just and Good.