

Theme: We have died to the law but become alive to God, living a new life by faith in Christ.

I. Introduction – Medical Tests

- A. Ever had an x-ray or MRI?
- B. These are wonderful tools for diagnosing
- C. They are not wonderful tools for healing!
- D. The law is like an MRI – diagnostic tool
- E. Great – as long as used for its purpose!

II. Does Christ Promote Sin? (v17)

- A. 2 possible meanings to phrase
 - 1. Actual sin in believers
 - 2. Jews made equal to Gentile sinners
- B. Probably option 2: like Gentile sinners
 - 1. This is how term used in v15
 - 2. Paul does not deal with ethical sin until 5:13
- C. In either case – NO!!!!
 - 1. Actual sin – Christ changes us (5:13ff)
 - 2. Gentile sinners – false idea in first place!
- D. Reality: Law does not reduce sin – Christ does!

- 1. Law only shows sin – Rom 7:5; 3:20
- 2. Law can not save – Gal 2:15-16,21; Rom 3:20-24

III. What About the Law? - Dead to the Law (vv18-20)

- A. In conversion the law is torn down (v18-19)
 - 1. Note v19 – died to the law
 - 2. Rom 7:1-4 – conversion = die to law
- B. We die to the law, through the law! (v19)
 - 1. This was laws own intent – Gal 3:23-25
 - 2. Law only had a temporary purpose
- C. We die to law when crucified with Christ (v20)
 - 1. Conversion is union with Christ!
 - 2. We die to law with Him – Rom 7:4
 - 3. He is no longer under law – nor are we!
- D. Sin comes from rebuilding the law! (v18)
 - 1. This proves I am a sinner!
 - 2. Negates very purpose of law (Gal 3:23-25)
 - 3. Negates purpose of Christ's death (v21)

IV. Alive to God! (vv19-21)

- A. Dead to law **so that** I might live to God! (v19)
- B. Crucified with Christ – dead to law and self! (v20)
- C. Christ lives in me – new life, I live in & for Him! (v20)
- D. All this comes by faith – not law! (v20)

V. Conclusion – What the Law Can & Can't Do

- A. Are you misusing the law – it can not justify!
 - 1. Law can not save us – we can't keep it
 - 2. Law was not meant to save us!
 - 3. It points us to Christ – who can save us!
- B. Are you misusing law – it can not sanctify!
 - 1. Law does show us sin & righteousness
 - 2. Law does not help us to avoid sin
 - 3. Law points to Christ – who can save us!
- C. Alive to God – through Christ!
 - 1. We are united to Christ by faith!
 - 2. He is our, we are His, we are with Him!
 - 3. He gives us true life – forever! (Luther)

Dead to the Law But Alive to God

Galatians 2:17-21
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??????????
Numbers 6

⁵ For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, **the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies**, so that we bore fruit for death. Romans 7:5

20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, **through the law we become conscious of sin**. Romans 3:20

20 Therefore **no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law**; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. 21 But now a righteousness from God, **apart from law**, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 **This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ** to all who believe. There is **no difference**, 23 **for all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:20-24

1 Do you not know, brothers-- for I am speaking to men who know the law-- that **the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives**? 2 For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. 3 So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man. 4 **So, my brothers, you also died to the law** through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. Romans 7:1-4

23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. 24 **So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith**. 25 **Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law**. Galatians 3:23-25

4 **So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ**, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. Romans 7:4