

Romans Chapter Seven

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1. Sources—
 - a. *Waggoner on Romans* pp. 118-121
 - b. *Glad Tidings* pp. 103-104; Galatians 5:16; Romans 6:12; Romans 8:21
 - c. *Christ and His Righteousness* pp. 59-64; 72-77 — God does not excuse sin, but takes the sin away; Exodus 34:5-7; Isaiah 61:10
 - d. *Steps to Christ* p. 62 — we have no righteousness of our own to meet the just claims of the broken Law (see also 1BC 1084-1085)

2. God had to find a way to take people to heaven
 - a. He had to guarantee to unfallen beings that sin will never again put them in jeopardy
 - b. When we get to heaven we won't have to be watched constantly by angels because we will be truly converted — no longer slaves to sin or to our sinning nature
 - c. Our every step will be in alignment with God's Law; fully surrendered to God

3. Romans 7 is not about whether or not the “man” is converted or unconverted
 - a. It's about the *sinning* nature in conflict with the righteous Law of God
 - b. “Law in my members” is the “old man”
 - c. Force of sin is the carnal nature

4. Three “natures”
 - a. Sinless nature —
 - i. God, Christ, and the unfallen angels
 - ii. Without any taint or contamination of sin in character or substance
 - iii. Without inclinations or propensities to sin
 - b. Sinful nature —
 - i. Greek: *sarx* — the “flesh” or nature of mankind marred by the fall of Adam
 - ii. Character bent toward self; crooked character; desiring self-gratification
 - iii. Possessing inclinations and propensities to sin (*Desire of Ages* pp. 117; 49)
 - iv. It demands to sin, demands to get whatever it wants (avenue to temptation)
 - v. Will be done away with at the second coming of Christ (1 Cor. 15:52-54)
 - c. Sinning nature —
 - i. Begins when we willfully choose to commit acts or thoughts of sin
 - ii. Reinforced by indulging and satisfying the clamors of the sinful nature

- iii. Continues as we succumb to inclinations and propensities of the sinful flesh
 - iv. Can be done away with now (Gal. 2:20; 5:16-17; Rom. 6:6-14)
5. Characters in Paul's illustration in Romans 7 —
 - a. First ("bad") husband who must die (Rom. 6:6)
 - b. Woman (the individual and corporate mankind) must also die (in Christ — 2 Cor. 5:14, 17)
 - c. Good Husband is Christ
 6. "Old man" — Rom. 6:6-14
 - a. Self or the sinning nature
 - b. Synonymous with the "bad husband"
 7. The Law of God is impersonal, detached, high and lifted up
 - a. Condemns our marriage to the *sinning* nature
 - b. Law cannot justify or "make right" our behavior/character
 8. Waggoner's four points from *Waggoner on Romans* (pp. 118-121)
 - a. Woman — us (corporate and individuals)
 - b. 1st husband — fallen flesh or body of sin = the "old man" or "sinning" nature
 - c. 2nd husband — Christ
 - d. Law — 10 Commandments, transcript of God's character
 9. Which are we "married" to?
 - a. We are NOT "married" to the sinFUL nature because we did not choose it
 - i. Sinful nature is condemned and will never be "converted" to sinless nature (no truth in "holy flesh" teaching); it cannot be changed this side of the second coming
 - ii. Sinful nature will be changed from corruptible to incorruptible when Christ comes to claim His own (1 Cor. 15:51-54)
 - b. We are "married" to the sinNING nature because we choose to sin — the battle is for the mind (Phil. 2:5; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:22-24)
 - i. Sinning nature is condemned
 - ii. But, the sinning nature can be overcome through faith in God's power over sin — we do NOT have to sin (Christ assuming fallen, sinful flesh in His incarnation proves this); we can become, as Romans 6:16-18 tells us — "servants of righteousness"
 10. Law of marriage
 - a. In God's law of marriage the "twain shall be one flesh" — two become one

- b. Married to the sinning nature, we did whatever the body of sin (“old man”) devised
- c. “Sin reigned in our mortal bodies” because we were one with it (united to it)
- d. Law of marriage does not allow divorce
- e. Only way to be set free from the hateful union is through death
- f. The same thing that frees us from the 1st husband unites us to the 2nd husband — we die in Christ and are raised to new life and a new marriage in Him
- g. Example: cancer is a parasite that dies when the person/host dies
- h. Example: “body of death” — a dead body (the murder victim) is tied or chained to the murderer; the man was never free from the rotting corpse

11. Law condemns the illicit marriage

- a. Our marriage to the sinNING nature is unlawful
- b. No matter how “good” we are, no matter how well we manage to “keep” the Law we can never keep it perfectly enough to satisfy the Law’s demands for perfection (see *Christ and His Righteousness* pp. 52, 55-56)
- c. Only way to be free to legally marry the Good Husband is for both the old man/”bad” husband to die and for the woman (individual) to die, too (both are accomplished in Christ, our Substitute and Surety in the battle with sin)