

^{7.1} Or are you ignorant, brothers and sisters, you who are supposed to know the law, that the law is lord over a person only as long as he lives? ² For a married woman is bound to her husband for life by the law. But if the husband dies, then she has been separated from the law of the husband. ³ So if the husband is still living, then she will be labeled an adulterer if she joins with another man. ⁴ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through Christ's body so you might be joined to another, to the one who was resurrected from the dead. This was done so that we might produce fruit for the Creator. ⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the passions of sin were working in your body-parts through the law to produce the fruit of death. ⁶ But now separated from the law, we have died to what was restraining us so that we might be slaves to the new Spirit and not to the old letter.

⁷ What then will we say? The law is sin? Absolutely not! But I would not know sin except through the law. For I would not know desire except the law says, "Do not desire."⁸ But sin, taking the opportunity through the command, produced in me every desire. For apart from the law, sin is dead. ⁹ I was once alive apart from the law, but when the command came, then sin gained strength. ¹⁰ Then I died and found that the command which was for life, led me into death. ¹¹ For the sin, taking the opportunity through the command, deceived me and through the command killed me. ¹² As such, the law is holy and the command is holy and righteous and good.

¹³ Then did what was good for me become death for me? Absolutely not! But the sin, so that it might be revealed as sin, produced death for me through the good. This was so that the sin might become even more sinful through the command. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual. But my ego is fleshly, enslaved under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not know what I produce. For I do not practice what I intend. Instead I do what I hate. ¹⁶ If I do what I do not intend, then I confess that the law is beautiful. ¹⁷ And now it is no longer I who produce it, but the sin dwelling within me. ¹⁸ For I know that no good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. For the intention is present within me, but I do not produce what is beautiful. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good that I intend, but I practice the bad that I do not intend. ²⁰ But if I do what I do not intend, then I am no longer producing it, it is the sin dwelling within me. ²¹ Therefore, I find the law that when I am intending to do the beautiful that the bad is present with me. ²² For I delight in the Creator's law in my inner self. ²³ But I see a different law in my body-parts, warring against the law of my mind and enslaving me in my body-parts to the law of sin. ²⁴ I am an addict! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to the Creator through Christ Jesus our Lord! So then, I myself am a slave in my mind to the Creator's law, but in the flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.