

Free to Win or Lose

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 6-7.
- B. The problem with man is man himself.
- C. God's solution to the problem of man is to start a completely new race right within the shell of the old.
- D. The resurrection releases the life of Christ within us.

II. Can we still sin as believers? Yes and no.

- A. The radical change we experience in Christ will result in some kind of change in lifestyle. A man is not a Christian unless attitudes and outlooks have changed.
- B. However, we cannot escape the enslavement that sin brings.

III. Does the law help us to handle the problem of sin? Yes and no.

- A. The law helps us to define the problem.
- B. The law is no help at all when it comes to delivering us—it only makes things worse in this regard.
- C. Understanding the law.
 - 1. The law is a reference to a standard of conduct or behavior that is expected of men.
 - 2. The law is present among men everywhere even beyond the specific Ten Commandments.
 - 3. The purpose of the law is to condemn failure.
 - 4. Law is producing everywhere a sense of despair.
 - 5. Symptoms of those under the law.
 - a. They cannot admit they are wrong.
 - b. They go through times of utter boredom.

D. Paul's application of the law.

- 1. We have been released to the law through the death of Christ.

2. If the first husband dies, a wife is released from the law in regards to him.
3. The first husband represents Adam—we have died to him in order that we might bear fruit for God.
4. Christ on the cross became the Adamic nature. When He became that nature, He died freeing us to be united to Christ risen.
5. We are no longer hypocrites in regards to the law because our new union helps us to be what we really are. We have power and freedom from condemnation.

E. There is a place for the law, and it is valuable in a certain way. However, it can never deliver us.

Application questions:

1. Why are believers able to sin and not at the same time?

2. How does the law help reveal the sin problem?

3. What does Christ do in regards to our relationship to the law to solve the law problem? Explain.
