

Free To Be Fruitful

Romans 7:1-6

Introduction:

Would you ever throw freedom away?

1. Jesus saved us not to re_____ us (yet many Christian add restrictions as a substitute for spirituality)
2. Jesus saved us to re_____ us to be fruitful
 - a. There a varying d_____ of fruit bearing (Matt 13:23)
 - b. How much fruit we bear is our choice.

How much fruit would you like to bear for God?

Believers Are No Longer Married To The Law (1-4a)

The illustration of marriage (1-3)

1. Paul is using the R_____ law of marriage (1)
 - a. These laws applied to Roman c_____ only
 - b. There were many Jews and G_____ that lived under Roman rule but were not Roman citizens and so followed their own marriage laws.
 - c. Since Paul was writing to Christians in Rome (Jews, Greeks and Romans), he is referring to Roman law which only recognized m_____ (one man to one woman).
2. How the law of marriage works (2-3)
 - a. D_____ of a husband releases his wife from marriage to the husband
 - b. If a married woman marries another man, the law brands her as an a_____
 - c. But if a widow marries another man, this is not adultery.

The illustration of marriage applied (4a)

1. Believers were made to d_____ to the Law
 - a. The Greek text has the word “the” before Law, which means Paul is referring to the Law of M_____
 - b. Believers are r_____ from the Law of Moses, not some of it, but all of it!
2. This death was through the b_____ of Christ
 - a. Rom 6:6 – the old self was c_____ with Christ
 - b. Rom 6:4 – baptism testifies that we were b_____ with Christ
 - c. Rom 6:2 – believers have d_____ to sin

How our relationship to Jesus fulfills the Law

1. Sacrificial laws – Jesus is the one time sacrifice for all s_____ (Jn 1:29; Heb 7:27).
2. Dietary laws

- a. The purpose was to make Israel h_____ or set apart from the world (Lev 11:44,45)
 - b. Jesus is our h_____ (I Cor 1:30 – some translations use the term sanctification, which means holiness).
 - c. Our relationship to Christ is what sets us apart from the rest of the world (Rom 1:7 – the word s_____ means holy one).
3. Ceremonial laws
- a. Lev 10:10 calls the cl_____ “holy”, so the purpose of these laws were also holiness
 - b. Our relationship to Jesus makes us clean – Jn 13:10,11
4. Sabbath laws - The purpose of these laws were also h_____ (Ex 19:5,6) and Jesus is our holiness.
5. The entire law was for holiness (Ex 19:5,6) but now Jesus is our holiness.

Believers Are Forever Married To Christ (4b)

The illustration applied

1. Why does Paul say that we are married to Him who was raised from the d_____ and not just married to Christ?
 - a. Because the resurrection demonstrates that Christ c_____ death and so can never die.
 - b. His resurrection makes this marriage last f_____
2. What about us? Does our physical death affect this marriage?
 - a. DO NOT press the illustration of marriage beyond the scripture.
 - b. The context sees our death in s_____ terms; when we come to Christ we have eternal l_____ which is unaffected by physical death (see Jn 11:25,26)

We need to think of our relationship to Christ as a marriage

1. Adding external rules as a m_____ of holiness is spiritual adultery.
2. All that we do must be a r_____ of our relationship to Christ

Believers Are To Bear Fruit for God (4c-6)

What is bearing fruit?

1. Verse 5 – as unbelievers we only bore fruit for d_____ - nothing had eternal value
2. Verse 6 – as believers we serve
 - a. Not in oldness of the letter
 - 1) Oldness – not old in time, not ancient (that is a different Greek word) but old in k_____ or condition (wore out, useless)

- 2) Letter – refers to w_____ rules (Many Christians are still living by rules as a means of spirituality and so are not bearing much fruit).
- b. But in newness of the Spirit
 - 1) Newness – not new in time, not recent (that is a different Greek word) but new in k_____ or condition (not wore out, but still useful)
 - 2) Spirit – can refer to the Holy Spirit or the new n_____ (in the end it does not matter which, since the Holy Spirit only works through the new nature)

We are to yield to the internal guidance of the Holy Spirit through our relationship with Jesus.

Conclusion:

Jesus said, by this is my Father glorified, that you bear m_____ fruit (Jn 15:8) – how can you be fruitful?

1. God is looking for those hearts who are c_____ His (2 Chron 16:9)
2. God yearns to use those who love Him fully as His i_____ for eternity (2 Tim 2:21).

Always remember who you are and why you are here

1. You are God's child and His s_____
2. You have been left on this earth to be f_____
3. Make your heart completely His each day and He will use you!