

ROMAN LAW

18 5: 12—21; 6: 3--14 The Law of Identification

This law reviews how the descendants of Adam identify with his sin through genetic inheritance; and likewise we identify with Jesus through His sinless purity by grace that imputes Jesus' righteousness to us. This passage teaches that we identify with the death of Jesus—to deal with our sin—and that we identify with his resurrection and life, as witnessed by the indwelling Holy Spirit and joy when we sense that the guilt and weight of sin is gone. We also identify with Christ's ministry because we are His Body in the earth to carry on His post-resurrection work of redemption until His return.

19 6:16—23 The Law of Slavery

This law makes it clear that every human being is a slave to either sin and Satan—or to righteousness and Christ. The choice is ours to make, therefore we will be judged accordingly and we will have no excuse because **we make the choice**. And this passage makes it clear that the consequence of our choice is certain: *"The wages of sin is death...and the gift of God (when we accept redemption through faith in Christ) is eternal life."* This being said, we are saved to serve. We have exchanged masters from Satan to Jesus. We are now led by the Holy Spirit not the desires of the flesh. We are called to obey not disobey the laws of God's kingdom, and in this sense our lives are controlled by **the law of slavery**—but now it is good and praiseworthy to be a slave of our redeemer: Jesus Christ.

20 7:4 **The Law of Reproduction or Fruit Bearing** In Genesis we learn that every living thing in the plant, animal or human realm reproduces after its own kind. This is an unchanging law in nature. Jesus introduced the same law of reproduction (fruit bearing) into NT practice. He said that His disciples should go to all the world and make disciples (**Matt 28:18 & 19**)—in other words, disciples make other disciples: and they reproduce Christians just like themselves. This law extends our work from where we live to the far reaches of the world—it provides fuel and fire for global evangelism.

21 7:13—25; 21—24; 8:5—13 The Law of Struggle between the flesh & The Spirit

Although believers are redeemed, have a new birth in and through Jesus Christ, have the indwelling Holy Spirit and access to Spiritual gifts and empowerment—they also have an adversary. The flesh is a battle ground between good and evil. The reborn spirit within wars against the temptations and cravings of the body: lust, pride, passion, ambition and independence. In every struggle with temptation we must make a choice. The mind is involved, as well as the will. We see this on-going struggle in the above passages and realize that since evil is always present with us in this earthly life we must maintain our faith, determination and spiritual warfare to put down the flesh and let the Holy Spirit produce spiritual fruit. Since Jesus condemned sin in the flesh (**V. 8:3**) we reckon the flesh to be dead and make decisions to live according to the Spiritual laws of God (**V. 8:4**). The mind is a battlefield too because that is where we are tempted, deceived and make decisions regarding which master we will serve. Our victory is assured if we keep in mind that serving the flesh leads to death and serving the Spirit leads to life. And the Holy Spirit has been sent to dwell in us—to alert us, to empower us to make the right choices and to deal a death blow to the flesh, sin and death. Onward to victory, **sons of God!** (**V. 8:14**).

22 8:1 & 31+ **The Law of Condemnation** (*Remember that Satan condemns & the H.S. warns & convicts*). In these two verses we have a great promise: *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. And, "If God is for us, who can be (successful) against us"?* The law of condemnation simply stated is this: **there is NO condemnation for those who are under the control of the Holy Spirit**—the only people who are condemned are those who continue to live according to the flesh. And the choice is always ours to make.

23 8:14—17 The Law of Sonship

Those who allow the Holy Spirit to lead them in their decisions and actions **are the sons of God**. Fellowship has been restored. Sin has been dealt with. The new birth revived their sleeping spirit and they have the witness of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. They recognize and utilize the authority that comes with sonship.

24 8: 26—28 The Law of Intercession

Believers are called to a life of prayer—by Jesus, by the NT writers, by the written Word of God and by the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This law also assures believers and ministers that the Holy Spirit can and will help us understand how and what to pray; sometimes in our native tongue and sometimes in a spiritual language. The Holy Spirit knows the burden of prayer that comes from the throne of God and He knows when there are urgent matters requiring special intercession, perhaps fasting. He is always present to guide us.

25 8:29, 30—39 The Law of Predestination & Foreknowledge

These two words have similar meaning, and for this study I will not separate them. It is sufficient to say that God knows the beginning from the end and/or the reverse. That is foreknowledge. The Psalmist wrote: *“Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them”*—**Ps. 139:16**. **Jeremiah 1:5** reads: *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations”*. That was foreknowledge and predestination. What God knows ahead of time He can ordain (or predestine) to happen. He predestined Jesus to come to earth and pay the penalty for our sins; and He knew so many details ahead of time that the prophets recorded them Centuries before they happened. Be assured that God knows everything future, present and past, and never believe that He has abandoned you.

26 8:37 The Law of Victory

This is a key verse in Scripture because it proclaims the ultimate victory for the believer. In previous laws we have noted those which speak of tribulation, trouble, sin & death; and it is encouraging that the Bible doesn't leave the believer facing defeat. Throughout our study we note the remedy God has provided. It is always through our identity with Christ and undaunted faith in God's promises. Victory is also assured because God has made available the weapons and Spiritual empowerment to defeat the devil no matter how he endeavors to weaken our faith and destroy us (**Review the chart in Lesson 3**). The clincher is the promise that absolutely nothing can separate a believer from the love of God (**V. 8:39**). Thank God for **the law of victory!**

27 9:4, 11 The Law of Adoption / Election

In church doctrine the words “adoption” & “election” can be discussed endlessly, but in this study a simple principle (or law) is stated. In **V. 9:4 & 5** Judaism is said to have a special relationship with God by God's invitation and covenant: *“to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises. Of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God”*. This passage identifies OT Israel with the term “adoption” because God chose (elected) Abraham and his descendants—which included Moses, David, the prophets and eventually the promised Messiah—as the people He would work through in dealing with man and implementing His redemptive plan. Notice that it is God who elects and adopts. God makes the choice and He offers a covenant of blessing. Read **Ps. 135** where God is in control of everything and He chooses *“For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure”* (**V. 4**). When Messiah came the covenant and election was enlarged to include Gentiles according to **Romans 10: 9 & 10** plus **V. 13** which says: *“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”*. Paul agonized over the blindness of the Jews who rejected Jesus and caused His death,

but rejoiced that in a way this opened the door to the Gentiles. Thus God's adoption and election reaches around the world and those who respond to the call (election) are literally adopted into God's eternal family—the body of Christ. Peter calls the church—or body of Christ —“*a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people to proclaim the praises of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light*” (**1 Peter 2:9**).

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