

## Newness of Spirit (Rom 7:6)

- Paul's context is the Christian's relationship to the Law of God

### I. "But now"

- A) Paul uses this term often to express the new relationship of the believer to God
  1. Rom 3:21- Contrasted with our guilt under the law
  2. Rom 6:22- Contrasted with our old fruitless life of slavery to sin
  3. Rom 16:26- Contrasted with the veiled glory of the gospel under law
- B) This again shows us the Christian is a person to who something "has happened"
  1. "You were" vs "but now"
  2. John 3:1-9- Christ and Nicodemus

### II. Terms

#### A) "Delivered"

1. "Discharged, loosed, set free"
  - i. This is the position of the woman in Paul's example (v.1-4)
2. "Law"
  - i. The Christian is a person who has been set free or discharged from the law, but in what sense?
    - a) 1 Cor 9:21- Not lawless, but under law to Christ
      - 1) Rom 8:1- We are delivered from the condemnation of the law
      - 2) Rom 8:3- We are delivered from the law's inability to save us
      - 3) Rom 6:21- We are delivered from a life of fruitless works
      - 4) Rom 3:19-20- We are delivered from eternal guilt
      - 5) Rom 7:5- We are delivered from the law being used to aggravate our sin
      - 6) Rom 8:4- We are delivered from the law's inability to sanctify us
        - (a) Rom ch 8 works this out in detail, expounding Rom 7:5-6
3. "That being dead wherein we were held"
  - i. Aorist tense- "we having died to that which held us"
    - a) Remember a Christian is a person to which something has happened (v.4)
    - b) Nothing has happened to the Law of God
      - 1) Matt 5:17- The law is not "dead" as some take the verse to mean
        - (a) "Law dead" makes God unjust and changing
        - (b) But believers made dead in Christ makes God just and perfect
        - (c) "Law dead"= Antinomianism

(1) All interest in doctrine and none in practice

4. “Held”
  - i. “Captive, dominated, ruled over, imprisoned”
    - a) Rom 7:1-2- As the woman in the example
5. “That” (2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - i. “In order that”- for the purpose of, to the end result
  - ii. The grand result of all Christ’s work is our sanctification
    - a) Eph 1:4- “That we should be before Him blameless and holy”
    - b) Col 1:22- Salvation is from sin to holiness
    - c) Matt 1:21- “Deliver us from our sins” completely and finally
      - 1) Justification and the forgiveness of sins is but one part in the overall plan of God in redemption
6. “Serve”
  - i. “Bondslave” throughout this section

### III. Contrasting the 2 positions

#### A) “Old” vs “new”

1. Comparing the Christian with the strictest legalist or moralist such as Nicodemus or Saul of Tarsus
  - i. John 3:1-6
  - ii. 2 Cor 5:16-17
  - iii. Matt 9:14-17

#### B) “Spirit” vs “letter”

1. “Letter” = “writing”- conform to what is “written” on stone (Hebraism)
2. “Spirit” = “Holy Spirit”- under the power and guidance of the Spirit of God
  - i. The difference between “self powered” and “Spirit-powered”
    - a) Rom ch 8- “Life in the Spirit” vs “under the law/in the flesh”
      - 1) Rom 8:2- Spirit of life in Christ has freed us
      - 2) Rom 7:7-25- Is a digression that Paul makes to expound upon his point about the inability of the law to sanctify
        - (a) We could read from 7:6 and skip to 8:1 in context
    - b) 2 Cor 3:1-6- Spirit vs letter
    - c) John 4:24- Worship God “in the Spirit”
      - 1) The woman at the well was concerned with form and location
      - 2) Life “in the Spirit” frees us from all the religious constraints, formalities and liturgy
        - (a) We no longer are concerned about location for worship, time, clothing, position for prayer, etc.
        - (b) We no longer need signs, relics, crucifixes, etc.
      - 3) Phil 3:3- We worship God in the Spirit and have no confidence in the flesh

- 4) Jude 20- We are even enabled to “pray in the Spirit”
  - (a) 1 Cor 14:15- Sometimes words aren’t even needed
  - (b) Rom 8:26-27- Sometimes only a groan can be uttered
- d) Rom 8:4 & Gal 5:16- Led of Spirit
  - 1) No longer tyrannized over by laws, forms, rituals, fear, superstitions, etc.
  - 2) Free to be at peace with God and begin to see Him in all aspects of our life
    - (a) Do we know something about this???
    - (b) Can we relate to the man born blind and then receiving his sight??? Seeing all things new???
    - (c) Read hymn “I Am His and He Is Mine”
      - (1) “Something lives in every hue, Christless eyes have never seen?”