

The Funeral Before the Wedding

(04/11/17)

- I. The entirety of **Rom 6-7** is not dealing with justification of the lost, but is rather the sanctification of the saved once justified
 - A) Paul is using multiple examples to make comparison of the fruit we had in the flesh before salvation to what ought to be the fruit of Christ brought forth after salvation
 - 1) **Rom 6:12-13**- The fruit in these 2 chapters is not new converts, but the fruit of a life being sanctified by Christ, a spiritual maturation manifested in sanctified living and conversation
- II. The 3 views of **Rom 7:1-14**
 - A) Doctrinally it shows the permanent union between one man and one woman is God's definition of marriage, and ends only in death
 - B) Historically it shows that the Old Covenant had to be dissolved in order that the New Covenant could be established, and this by means of the Husbands death
 - C) Spiritually it shows that each individual must reckon his old man put to death along with his legalistic doctrine of performance to gain righteousness, in order that the new man can enter union with Christ in grace
- III. The fruit in this passage is the outgrowth of either of 2 unions:
 - A) Man's 1st union is always to some form of legalism (religion)
 - B) Man's 2nd union is to be by grace through faith
 - 1) *Adultery* = is a form of *adulterate* and is from roots meaning "to mix, to corrupt."
 - i. **Webster's 1828- ADUL'TERATE**, *verb transitive* [Latin adultero, from adulter, mixed, or an adulterer; ad and alter, other.]

To corrupt, debase, or make impure by an admixture of baser materials; as, to *adulterate* liquors, or the coin of a country.

 - a) Among ancient naturalists, the grafting of trees was called *adultery* due to it's being an unnatural union
 - b) To mix Legalism and Grace is just such adulteration/adultery in any age
 - (1) To do this is to attempt to bring the flesh and Spirit into an unnatural union; a hybrid so to speak as an impotent mule
 - (2) Yet this is just what many hyper-dispensational teachings do, mixing law and grace in all other ages but ours. This is also a

mandatory addition to the new eschatology where God's appointed time till Messiah is paused and split

- 2) **Gal 5:1-4**- To return to the husband of the 1st union after being joined unto the Husband of the 2nd union is adultery
 - i. This is only possible if there was only "separation" from the 1st husband rather than death
 - a) **Gal 4:20**- This is why Paul was in doubt about some of the Galatians
 - b) **Gal 5:4**- To "fall from grace" is always to fall into legalism of any form
 - (1) To mix legalism with sanctification is to mix self with the grace of God and thereby turn the fruit of sanctification into acts of character instead of acts of God
 - (2) **Gal 2:11-21**- This is exactly what Paul accuses Peter of in Antioch, having never crucified the legalism in Himself
 - (a) **Acts 21:18-26**- The Jerusalem Church did this
 - (b) **2 Tim 1:15**- The churches of Asia, as in the Ephesian Church, did this
 1. **Rev 2:4-5**- The Ephesian Church had "left thy 1st love" which is a perfect choice of words describing what it is to mingle legalism with grace, spiritual adulteration
 - (c) The Protestant Reformation in many ways did this same thing, coming forth out of the Roman legalism like Lazarus from the dead, wound in putrefying grave clothes, only to later put on even more sinister and beguiling clean garment of self righteousness
 - c) **Eph 2:8-10**- Getting into heaven is solely by the grace of God; what you are in heaven is solely by service in Christ
 - (1) Justification = Act of God whereby He declares an ungodly man perfect and righteous (**Rom 4:1-4, Rom 5:1 & 9**)
 - (2) Sanctification = Act of God whereby He begins to form Christ in the believer (**Gal 4:19, Rom 8:29, 2 Cor 3:18**)
 - (a) **2 Cor 7:1 & 1 Thess 4:3-4**- Sanctification of this sort by God should be part of every sermon
 - ii. The fruits produced by the 2 unions often appear the same to the world, but the fruit that is produced by legalistic effort under some code of conduct must be rejected by God as not being His own
 - a) **John 8:41-44**- This fruit is actually of the devil, as it has been from the seed he planted in Eve in the garden that all legalistic religious effort has sprung

- (1) All attempts by man to perform righteousness apart from Christ are the fruit of this 1st seed
- b) **2 Cor 12:9-10**- The godliest and most noble acts of legalism are rejected, while the feeblest acts of grace are counted great worth
 - (1) **Matt 5:20**- The most righteous and conquering Christian life lived in legalism is unacceptable and rejected upon fruit inspection
 - (2) **1 Cor 1:27**- The stumbling and halting human life lived in grace is the acceptable fruit of God
 - (a) **1 Cor 4:1-5**- Paul judged (discerned) nothing before the time. Let the Lord keep score
- c) **Heb 4:12**- Although Christ will accept the works of the new man, though tainted by the old man's touch, He will not accept the works produced by the power and will of the old man, even though the new man may be present
 - (1) **Gal 4:22-31**- This is wonderfully presented by Paul in the example of Ishmael and Isaac
 - (a) Ishmael = Fruit of the old man (Abram)
 - (b) Isaac = Fruit of the new man (Abraham)
- d) **Rom 7:6**- Newness of Life -vs- oldness of the letter
 - (1) This is amplification of **Rom 6:23**
 - (a) Grace -vs- Legalism
 - (b) Spirit -vs- Flesh
 - (c) New Covenant -vs- Old Covenant
 - (d) Christ -vs- Self
 - (e) New Creature -vs- Firstborn
 - (f) Faith -vs- Works

IV. **Rom 7:1-14**- The marriage covenant example

- A) Paul simply expounds on the previous contrasted truths with another example
 - 1) **Rom 5**- Two Heads = Adam and Christ
 - 2) **Rom 6**- Two Masters = Sin and Christ
 - 3) **Rom 7**- Two Husbands = Law and Christ
- B) In **chapter 7** Paul shows the contrast between previous statements about the Old Covenant and the current truth of the New Covenant
 - 1) **Rom 3:20**- No good and acceptable fruit under Law
 - i. **Rom 7:4**- Good fruit possible in Christ
 - 2) **Rom 5:20**- Law made the offense to abound
 - i. **Rom 7:12**- Law is holy, just and good
 - 3) **Rom 6:14**- You are not under the Law but under Grace
 - i. **Rom 7:22**- I delight in the Law of God after the inward man

- C) **Rom 12:2**- Satan's attack on the institution of Godly marriage has all but nullified the example in **Rom 7** to the average man today
- V. The 3 "know ye not" statements in **ch 6-7** prove that our fleshly union with sin was broken by the act of Christ on the cross, in order that we might be joined to Him in perfection
 - A) **Rom 6:3**- 1st dead in Christ and then alive, therefore walk like it
 - B) **Rom 6:16**- Freed from bondage and yet servants to Christ, act like it
 - C) **Rom 7:1**- The fruitless marriage now dead, and joined unto the fruitful one, so bring forth fruit
 - 1) The old slavery is to give place to new obedience
 - 2) We enter spiritual service rather than subjection to written code
- VI. **Rom 7:1** shows that Paul's main focus in this statement is the Jewish believers in Rome, otherwise the parenthetical statement is unneeded
 - A) Roman law made no provision for the union of one man and one woman for life
 - B) The Jews understood the teaching on marriage physically, so Paul uses it to teach further spiritual truths
 - 1) The husband is responsible for the wife and the fruit they produce, even if he puts her away and she remains unmarried (As God cared for Israel in Babylon)
 - 2) The wife is not to remarry as long as the 1st husband lives
 - i. **Gal 3:13-14**- Thus we can see that the Law had to be done away as a binding contract in order for Israel to be able to come into the New Covenant
 - a) **Matt 23:37-39**- Law Covenant died on cross and Israel was "widowed" and left desolate
 - (1) **2 Sam 13:20**- Desolate doesn't necessarily mean empty without inhabitant, it's etymology is from "to make completely lonely, joyless" and literally means "without companion" thus fruitless
 - ii. **Gal 2:16-21**- We also see that this rule made any new fruit impossible as long as the husband lived
 - a) So in this example we can see that death is required before there can be new fruit, and this is the spiritual teaching of **Rom 7:1-4**, that our old man must become dead in order that we might be joined unto Christ and bring forth new fruit
 - b) **Heb 10:9**- No one could be joined in the New Covenant as long as the Law Covenant was in force
 - (1) No one could be joined to Christ ("in Christ")
 - (2) No one could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - (3) No one could bear fruit

- C) **Rom 7:1-4**- The spiritual application for us is the husband is the old man, the wife is the soul or innermost being of the person. Each soul is either forever under the dominion of the flesh, or it is set free and joined by the Spirit through the death of the first husband
- 1) As long as a person seeks justification by any type obedience, they are under bondage to whatever law or code he has erected
 - 2) Just as Israel had been joined unto Jehovah under the performance contract, there were now to be joined to the One Who had performed
 - i. In the same manner, the person who has been under the headship of the old man and his performance system, is now to be joined by the new man in Christ
 - a) However, this is impossible while the old man (husband) is alive, he must be put to death, as Christ is no adulterer
 - b) Just as the husband is the head of the house or tabernacle, so the old man rules the individual and has position of exaltation in that house and must die if Christ is to enter that person's dwelling
 - (1) Christ will not come into the house where the old man is enthroned and a performance contract is in place
 - (2) Christ is no adulterer, and death must take place before marriage with Him
 - ii. The wife is to be in subjection to her husband, and the soul of the lost man is under complete subjection to "self," therefore "self" must die before a new union can take place and a new Husband come in
 - iii. **Rom 6:21-23**- The 2 fruits of the 2 unions
 - a) **Rom 7:5**- The soul that is joined to Adam produces fruit unto death
 - b) **Gal 5:22-24**- The soul that is joined unto Christ is used to produce fruit unto God by His Spirit
 - (1) **1 Cor 3:10-15**- The fruit will be inspected at the Judgment Seat of Christ