



## [Romans 7:4](#)

(4) Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

*King James Version*

The apostle Peter admits that many of the things that his fellow apostle, Paul, wrote are hard to understand, and because of this, he warns, some people distort Paul's writings to their own destruction ([II Peter 3:15-16](#)). This is still happening today. People—some sincerely and some not—are constantly twisting what Paul said in an attempt to show that the [law of God](#) is abolished.

A favorite target of the "no-law" advocates is [Romans 7:4](#). In this scripture, Paul writes that a Christian is "[dead to the law](#)" and is now "married to another." From these statements, some conclude that [God](#) no longer requires a Christian to obey His laws. Unfortunately, those who force such an interpretation on this verse fail to understand the profound truths that the apostle is explaining.

In verse 4, Paul further explains the marriage analogy ([Romans 7:2-3](#)) and how this relationship of a woman to her husband bears upon our relationship to the law and Christ. "Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ." Just as the woman in his example cannot be condemned by the law as an adulteress if her first husband dies, so we cannot be condemned by the law because our "old man of [sin](#)" has died ([Romans 7:1](#)).

In other words, we have become dead *in the eyes of the law*! At the time of our [baptism](#), the old man of sin was put to death and buried in a watery grave ([Romans 6:4](#)). Because [Jesus Christ](#) died in our stead, and we have been buried with Him in baptism, the law regards us as having died. Therefore, the penalty for sin ([Romans 6:23](#)) has been paid, and the law no longer has power to condemn us to death for our sins.

Paul continues in verse 4, ". . . that you may be married to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God." In the analogy of the woman and her husbands, the first husband is the old man of sin to whom we were "married" prior to conversion. After the old man of sin died at baptism, we are now free to marry Christ. Just as He died and was resurrected, so our old man of sin has died, and we have been raised out of the watery grave of baptism a new man, empowered to bear righteous fruit in service to God.

— Earl L. Henn

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