

**Change
of
Behavior**



**Change
of
Outcome**

1

**Change
in
me**



**Being
closer
to God**

2

Growing into our Freedom in Christ

Romans 7

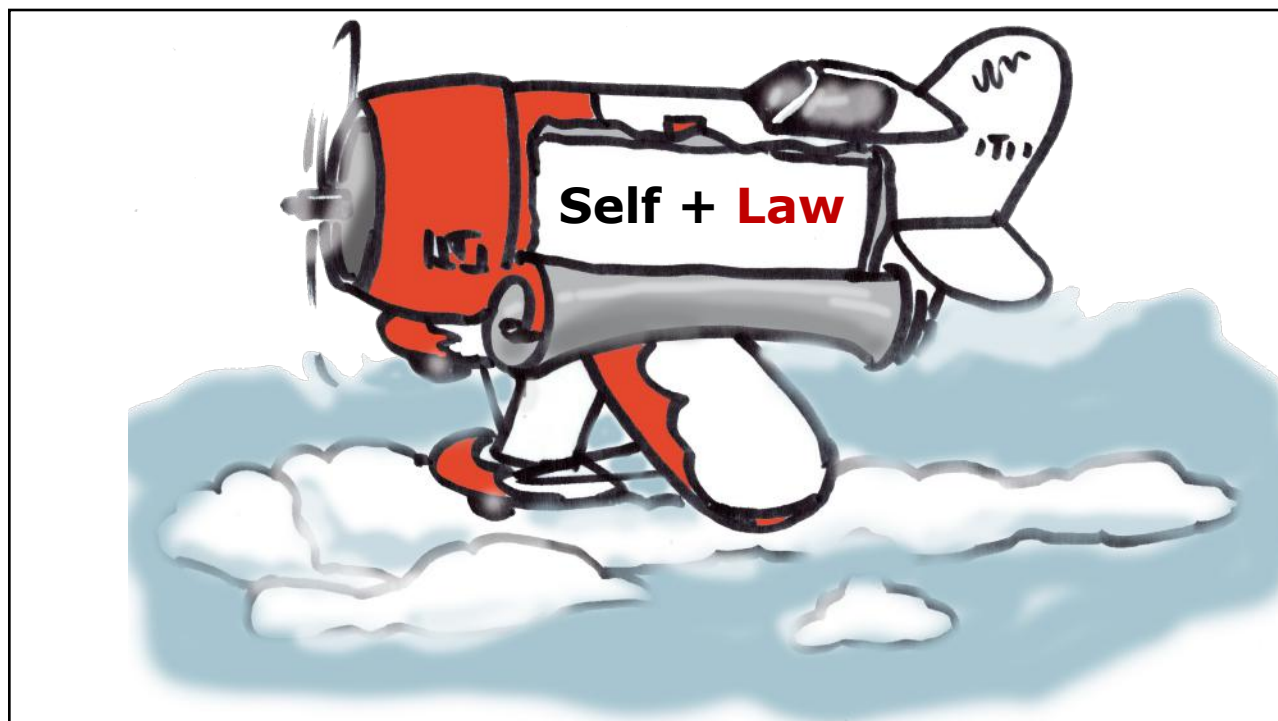
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4



5

Romans 7:1-6

Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know **the law**—that **the law** has authority over someone only as long as that person lives? ² For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but **if her husband dies, she is released** from the law that binds her to him. ³ So then, if she has sexual relations with another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress if she marries another man.

6

⁴ So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

⁵ For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. ⁶ But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

7

2 Ways to Live

Old way of the Law

- Self + Law
- Good comes to us when we do good
- But sin uses the Law to pull us into sin

New way of the Spirit



through Jesus' death
we move from Law to Spirit

8

Romans 7:7-13

⁷ What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead. ⁹ Once I was alive apart from the law; but **when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.**

covet = wanting what belongs to another

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¹⁰ I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹ For **sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.** ¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

¹³ Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

10

2 Ways to Live

Old way of the Law

- Self + Law
- Good comes to us when we do good
- But sin uses the Law to pull us into sin
- Sin uses the Law to kill us

New way of the Spirit

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Romans 7:14-25

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, **sold as a slave to sin**. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. **For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.** ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ **For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.** ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

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²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

13

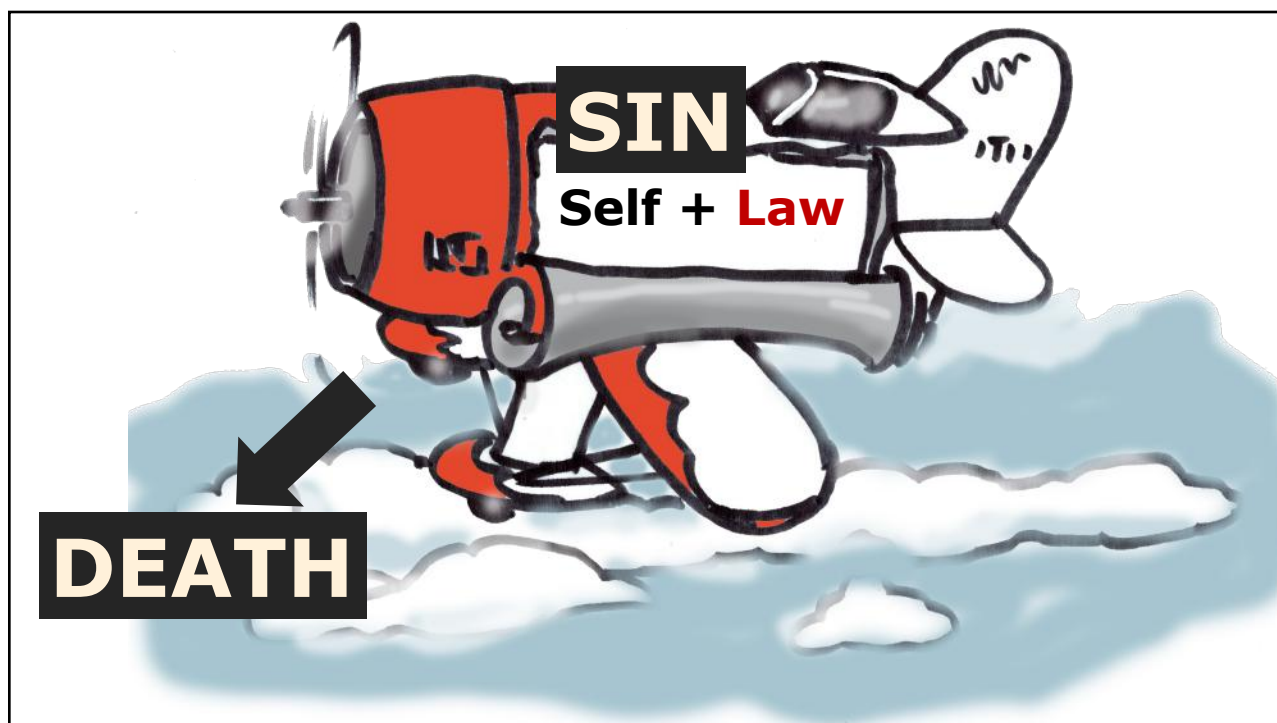
2 Ways to Live

Old way of the Law

- Self + Law
- Good comes to us when we do good
- But sin uses the Law to tempt us to sin
- Sin uses the Law to kill us
- I am a slave to sin!

New way of the Spirit

14



15

⁴ So, my brothers and sisters, **you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him** who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. ⁵ For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by **the law** were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. ⁶ But now, by dying to what once bound us, **we have been released from the law** so that we **serve in the new way of the Spirit**, and **not in the old way of the written code**.

16

2 Ways to Live

Old way of the Law

- Self + Law
- Good comes to us when we do good
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- Sin uses the Law to kill us
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New way of the Spirit

through Jesus' death
we move from Law to Spirit

17

Romans 8

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

18

2 Ways to Live

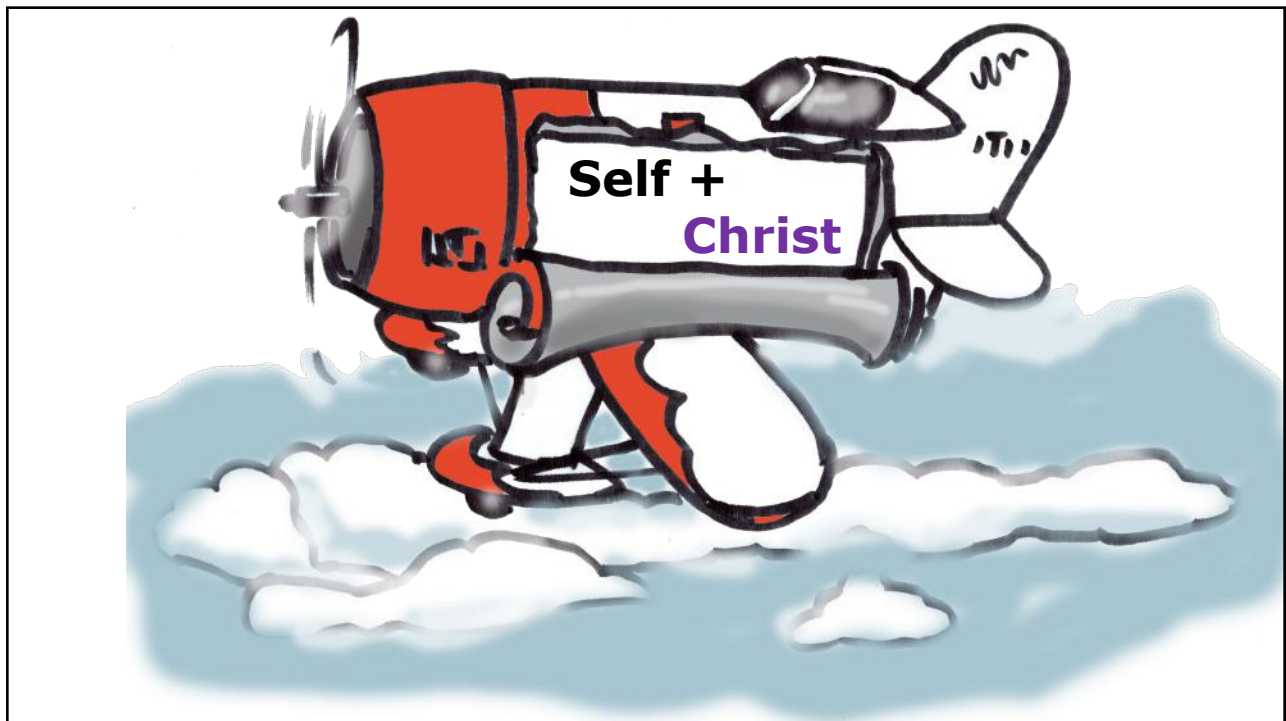
Old way of the Law

- Self + Law
- Good comes to us when we do good
- But sin uses the Law to tempt us to sin
- Sin uses the Law to kill us
- I am a slave to sin!

New way of the Spirit

Self + Christ (and Spirit)
No condemnation. Ever!

19



20

Romans 12

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, **in view of God's mercy,** to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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2 Ways to Live

Old way of the Law

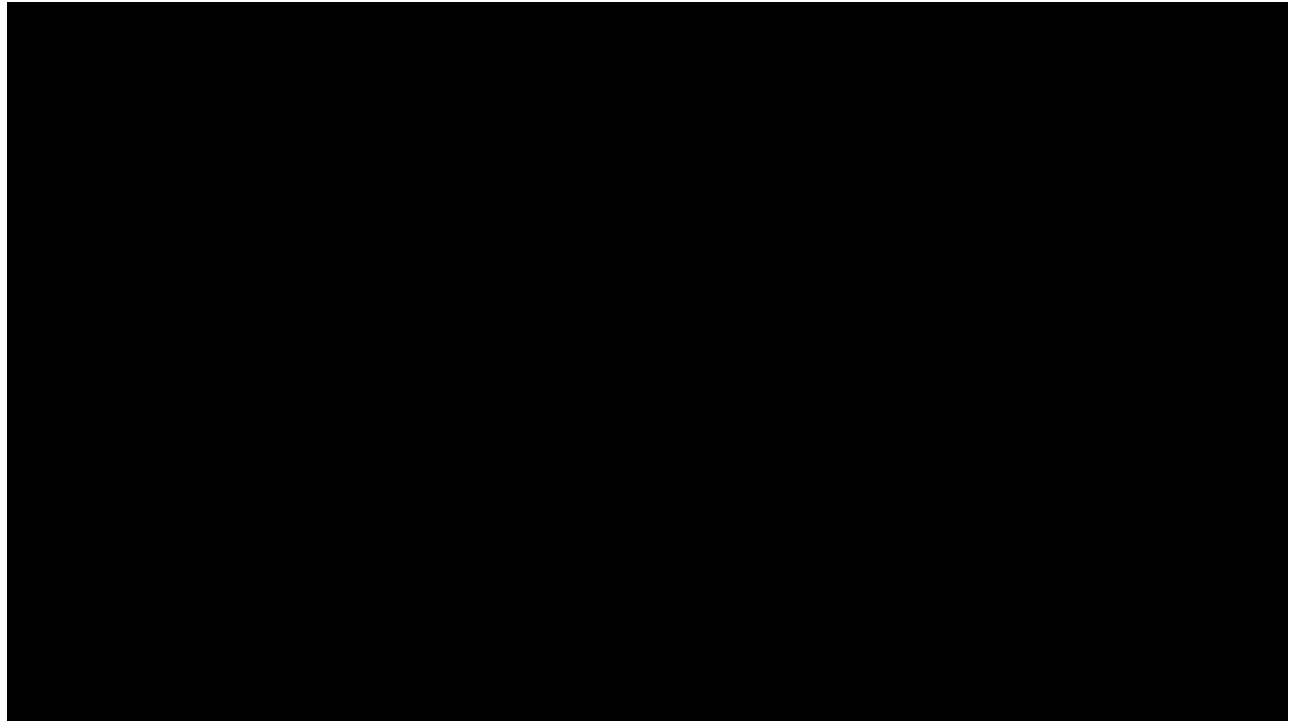
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New way of the Spirit

Self + Christ (and Spirit)
No condemnation. Ever!
Transformation comes by the Spirit in us

22



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The Big Idea

Being good enough will **never be enough**

Self + Law = death [sin]

Even for Christians

Rather:

Self + Christ = Life in God

which enables the work of transformation

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What are we to do?

Gain new life in Christ

- Through faith in Jesus we die to the Law so that we **belong to Christ**
- We are released from the Law **Self + Christ** to serve **in the new way of the Spirit**
- No condemnation...ever!

Self  **Law**

25

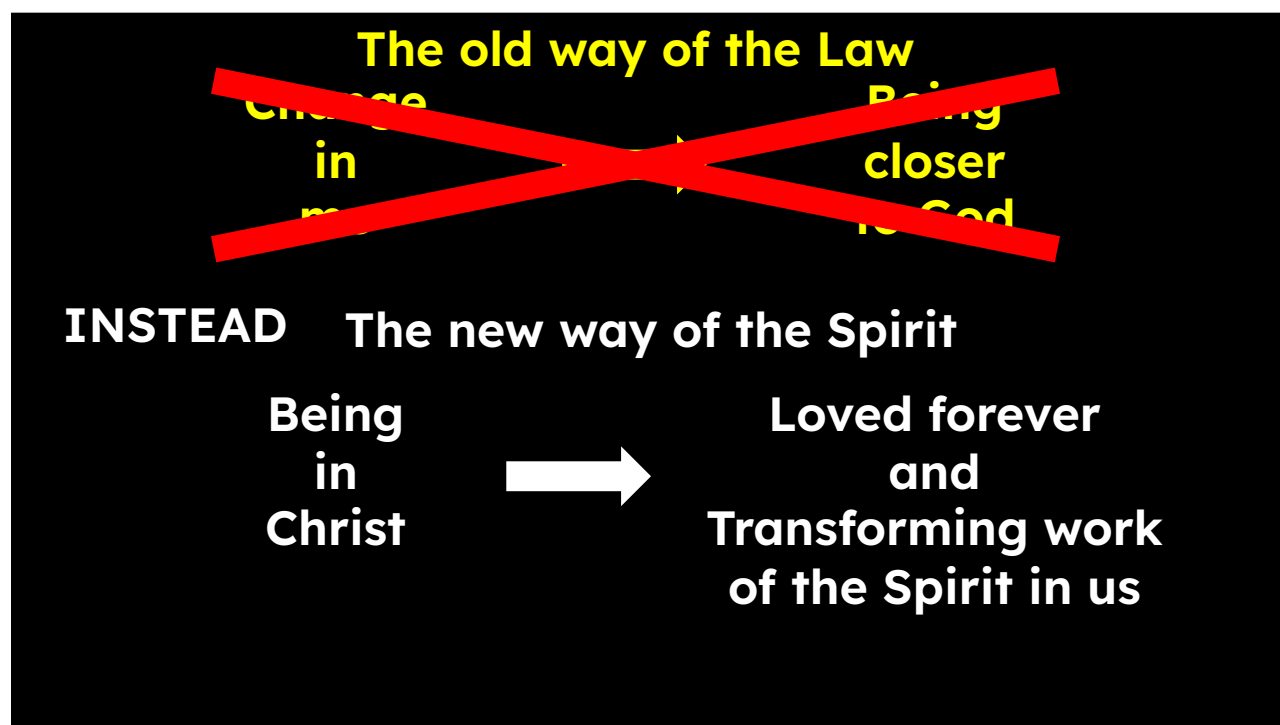
What are we to do?

Gain new life in Christ

In Christ's mercy, be transformed

- Self + Christ
- Pump the Spirit's presence and power through all our being
- BECAUSE we have life in Christ

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But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 7:6

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Questions