Lesson 11 Free from the Law to Serve God (Romans 7:1-6)

Questions

1. To whom was Paul speaking (7:1)?
2. How long does the law have dominion over a man (7:1)?
3. What binds a woman to her husband and how long does this bond last (7:2)?
4. What is a woman called who joins another man while her husband is still living (7:3)?
5. May a woman be joined to another man after her husband dies (7:3)?
6. The saints at Rome died to what (7:4; see also 7:6)?
7. The saints at Rome joined whom (7:4)?
8. What do the "sinful passions" in the flesh produce (7:5)?
9. How do Christians serve God (7:6)?

• Digging Deeper

Where are the New Testament passages in the gospels containing Jesus' words about divorce and remarriage?
Where else did Paul write about divorce and remarriage?

- 3. What relationship does Romans 7:4-5 have with Romans 6:21-22?
- 4. What is the importance of the words "But now" in verse 6?
- 5. What does Paul mean by "the spirit" and "the letter" (7:6; see also Rom. 2:29; 2 Cor. 3:6-16; Jer. 31:31-34; and Ezek. 36:26-27)?

Applications for Today

- 1. Marriage is for life. Divorce for any cause and remarriage results in adultery for anyone with a spouse still living. The rule for marriage is that we are bound to our spouse for as long as we live. We must emphasize this rule for all marriages today (7:2-3).
- 2. Adultery is a serious consequence of leaving one's spouse for another (7:2-3).
- 3. Christians must be busy bearing "fruit unto God" (7:4).
- 4. The church (the bride) is "joined" to Jesus Christ (the bridegroom). The bride must be faithful to the bridegroom (2 Cor. 11:3). Jews could be "joined" to Christ without committing spiritual adultery because the Old Law had been done away (7:6).
- 5. Christians serve God under the "newness" of the new covenant, not the old covenant (7:6). Christians are under the law of Christ (1 Cor. 9:19-21).