

A Love Relationship~ Not a Legal Relationship

Romans 7:1-6



“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” (Rom. 7:4). The believer is married to Jesus Christ. It is a love relationship, not a law relationship. We are joined to Christ in an intimate **union**, making possible a vibrant **communion** with the One who loved us and gave Himself for us. Christianity is not a **religion**; it is a **relationship** with a Person (John 17:3). Many think of Christianity only in a legalistic way, focusing on certain commands we must obey and certain rules and duties that we must perform. While there are certainly DO’s and DON’Ts involved in the Christian life, there is a much higher perspective.

Think of the marriage relationship. There are many things the husband must do, and other things he should not do. There are duties to perform, responsibilities to fulfill and obligations to meet. But why does he do all these things? He does them because he has decided to love a person, namely his wife. So too, the wife does many things: prepares meals, washes dishes, cleans the floor, washes the clothes, irons the clothes, etc. Why does she perform these duties? Is it because her husband has given her a long list of THOU SHALT’s and THOU SHALT NOT’s? Hopefully not. She does these things willingly and joyfully because she is responding to the love of her husband. The marriage relationship is based on love, not law. Love for Christ should motivate the believer: “For the love of Christ constraineth us” (2 Cor. 5:14). We do what we do because we want to please the Lover of our soul. **He** is the reason and motivation for all that we do!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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