

6/30-7/6#4 **The New Husband: I. Christ is the new Husband:** Rom. 7:2 For the married woman is bound by the law to her husband while he is living; but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law regarding the husband. 3 So then if, while the husband is living, she is joined to another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if the husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man. 4 So then, my brothers, you also have been made dead to the law through the body of Christ so that you might be joined to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit to God. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the passions for sins, which acted through the law, operated in our members to bear fruit to death. **A** As regenerated beings, both male and female believers have Christ as their Husband and are a part of His wife. **B** All genuine Christians have Christ as their Husband, yet it is pitiful that many do not know Him as their Husband.

II. Our old man, the old husband, has been crucified:

A Rom. 7:2-4a show two husbands: 1 The first husband, the old husband, is the old man mentioned in 6:6, who has been crucified with Christ. Rom. 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves. 2 The second husband, the new husband, mentioned in 7:2-4, is Christ. **B** Since our old man, who was the old husband, has been crucified with Christ, we are freed from his law and are joined to the new Husband, Christ, the ever-living One. **C** As believers, we have two statuses: 1 The first is our old status as the fallen old man, who left the original position of a wife dependent on God and took the self-assuming position of a husband and head, independent of God. 2 The second is our new status as the regenerated new man, restored to our original and proper position as the genuine wife to God, depending on Him and taking Him as our Head. Isa. 54:5 For your Maker is your Husband; Jehovah of hosts is His name. And the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth. 3 We no longer have the status of the old husband, for we have been crucified. 4 We now have only the new status of a proper wife, in which we take Christ as our Husband, and we should no longer live according to

the old man, that is, no longer take the old man as our husband. **D** Since the law was intended for and given to the old husband, the old man, the death of the old man also made us dead to the law through the body of Christ.

III. Our old man has been crucified to the law through the body of Christ so that we might marry another husband, Christ, who has been raised from the dead:

A This joining indicates that in our new status as a wife, we have an organic union in person, name, life, and existence with Christ in His resurrection; now we are married to Christ, our new Husband. 2Cor.11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. **B** Since Christ is our Husband, we must depend on Him and take Him as our Head: 1 To take Christ as our Husband means to terminate all that we are, have, and do and to trust in Him for everything. 2 Taking Christ as our Husband also means that we believe into Christ. 3 No longer should we live by ourselves but by Christ; we must let Christ live for us. 4 We are no longer the husband; we, as the old man, have been crucified, and Christ is now our Husband. **C** Christ is not only our Head—He is also our person and our life. **D** When a person believes and is baptized into the Triune God, he becomes involved with another person; that is, he marries another person, Christ.

IV. As a wife, we bear fruit to God:

A When we are in resurrection and live to God, we bear fruit to God. **B** As a regenerated person, as the wife, we bear fruit to God; this means that everything we do is now related to God. **C** Here we have a vivid contrast between death and God. **D** The phrase bear fruit to God means that God is brought forth as fruit: 1 Thus, all we are and do must be the living God. 2 We must bring forth God as an overflow of God; in this way we have the living God as our fruit, and we bear fruit to God.

V. We have died to the law in which we were held so that we might be discharged from it; we, as the wife and the new man, are no longer under law: Rom.7:6

But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter. 7 What then shall we say? Is the law sin? Absolutely

not! But I did not know sin except through the law; for neither did I know coveting, except the law had said, "You shall not covet." **A** The law portrays God and defines Him. **B** Accordingly, it places many demands and requirements on fallen man, and in so doing, it identifies sins and leads man to the knowledge of sin. **C** In this way man is both exposed and subdued by the law.

VI. As the wife, we should also serve the Lord in newness of spirit, not in oldness of letter:

Rome 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life. **A** In 6:4 we have the newness of life for our living, and in 7:6 we have the newness of spirit for our service. **1** Newness of life issues from our being identified with Christ's resurrection and is for our walk in our daily life. **2** Newness of spirit issues from our being discharged from the law and being joined to the resurrected Christ and is for our service to God. **3** Both newness of spirit and newness of life are results of the crucifixion of the old man. **B** Both newness of life and newness of spirit are related to the Spirit: **1** The newness of life is related to Christ Himself in His resurrection, who is the life-giving Spirit. **2** The spirit in the phrase newness of spirit refers to our regenerated human spirit, in which the Lord as the Spirit dwells. **a** We may serve in newness of spirit because God has renewed our spirit. **B** Everything that is related to our regenerated spirit is new. **C** Our regenerated spirit is a source of newness because the Lord, the life of God, and the Holy Spirit are there. **D** Everything in our regenerated spirit is new; in our regenerated spirit there is nothing but newness. **C** We need to realize that we, as the new man, are freed from the old man's law and have been married to our new Husband, the resurrected Christ, that we might bear fruit to God and serve the Lord in newness of spirit.

Testimony I would like to share a testimony about two young sisters. The first is a sister in her first year of high school. Since this April, when she started attending a school near Oji Koen, she has been coming to the Oji Koen Student Gospel Center every day on school days to have morning revival. At first, she struggled to pray using what she enjoyed in the morning revival, but with daily accumulation, she has now become able to pray based on what she has enjoyed. After morning revival, she opens herself and talks about her school life and other personal matters. As the life of Christ has gradually been supplied to her inwardly through the Word, she has come to participate in small group meetings, joined meal preparation service on the Lord's Day, and has been brought more fully into the church life. Praise the Lord!

The second is a sister in her third year of high school. This sister had been away from the church life since her junior high school days due to the impact of COVID-19 and moving. After she entered high school, I began visiting her, and her church life started to recover little by little, although it was not yet stable. However, starting this spring, Sister Yu Xin joined the young people's district serving ones and mainly cared for her, which greatly stabilized her church life. She began staying overnight at the Sannomiya meeting hall on weekends, attending sisters' small groups, and now participates in the Lord's Day meetings in person almost every week. She also actively joins blending meetings with saints from abroad and has come to enjoy the fellowship of the Body. Hallelujah! Through shepherding these two sisters, I have truly experienced and learned that our service is not a legalistic service of dead letters but a service in the newness of the Spirit, bringing people into Christ as life and into the church life. I want to continue to care for young people with a spirit of constant learning.

Prayer O Lord Jesus, my old man, my old husband, has been crucified. Now, I am married to the new husband, Christ. I will depend on my new husband and, as His wife, bear fruit unto God. To "bear fruit unto God" means that God is produced as fruit. I must produce God and become an overflow of God.

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