

Romans 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ—Ethanatōthēte (ἐθανατώθητε, "were put to death") is aorist passive, indicating a completed action done to believers. Through union with Christ's crucified body (dia tou sōmatos tou Christou), believers died to law's jurisdiction. This isn't gradual sanctification but positional identification with Christ's death (Galatians 2:20).

That ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead—The purpose clause (eis to) shows the goal: union with the resurrected Christ. Death to law precedes life in Christ. **That we should bring forth fruit unto God**—Karpophoreō (καρποφορέω, "bear fruit") contrasts with bearing "fruit unto death" (v. 5). Union with the risen Christ produces life-giving works, impossible under law's condemning ministry.

Historical Context

Paul wrote to believers struggling with the relationship between Jewish law and Christian faith. His argument—that Christ's death dissolved the law's condemning jurisdiction—was revolutionary. This wasn't antinomianism (lawlessness) but

explanation of the new covenant's superior ability to produce genuine godliness through Spirit-empowerment rather than external legal compulsion.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing your death to the law 'by the body of Christ' change how you approach obedience and holiness?
2. What 'fruit' in your life might still be works-righteousness (law-produced) rather than Spirit-produced fruit from union with Christ?
3. In what ways does understanding this sequential pattern (death to law, then marriage to Christ) help you rest in positional rather than performance-based acceptance?

Interlinear Text

ὅστε	ἀδελφοί	μου	καὶ	ὑμεῖς	ἐθανατώθητε	τῷ	νόμῳ
Wherefore	brethren	my	also	ye	are become dead	G3588	to the law
G5620	G80	G3450	G2532	G5210	G2289		G3551
διὰ	τοῦ	σώματος	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ	εἰς	τὸ	γενέσθαι
by	G3588	the body	G3588	of Christ	that	G3588	should be married
G1223		G4983		G5547	G1519		G1096
ὑμᾶς	ἐτέρῳ	τῷ	ἐκ	νεκρῶν	ἐγερθέντι	ἵνα	
ye	to another	G3588	from	the dead	even to him who is raised	that	
G5209			G1537	G3498	G1453		G2443
καρποφορήσωμεν	τῷ	θεῷ					
we should bring forth fruit	G3588	unto God					
G2592		G2316					

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 2:24 (Parallel theme): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Isaiah 54:5 (References God): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

Romans 8:2 (Word): For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 7:6 (Word): But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

Ephesians 2:15 (Word): Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Galatians 5:18 (Word): But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Colossians 1:22 (Parallel theme): In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:

Romans 6:22 (References God): But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Romans 6:14 (Word): For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Galatians 3:13 (Word): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

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