

A New Way to Serve
A Study of the Book of Romans
Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: Having died to the Law, we are free to serve in the new way of the Spirit.

Sanctification involves transformation. Not just transformation of old habits and current relationships, but transformation even in the way we think. One of the reasons sanctification is so hard is that we have a hard time letting go of our old, sinful, presuppositions and assumptions about how the world should work. But, in Christ we can submit ourselves to a total transformation and even learn to think and act differently about life. In the Book of Romans Paul challenges us to think differently about everything, even in the way we serve.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 7:1-6** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “**A New Way to Serve.**”

DIG IN

1. The Illustration: Marriage (Romans 7:1-3)

Why are we more prone to serving out of obligation rather than out of love? What are the effects of serving merely out of a sense of duty?

Explain the illustration Paul uses to describe what it takes to be freed from the law? Why do you think Paul would use this illustration (vv. 1-3)?

Why can't a spouse simply walk away from a marriage?

Using the illustration of marriage, why is it important that Paul describe a legal process rather than simply a relationship being ended?

2. The Application: Release (Romans 7:4-6)

To what does Paul apply the illustration of marriage and release in these verses?

When Paul talks about the “body of Christ” (v. 4), is he speaking literally or metaphorically? Why?

Why is it important that we died to the law rather than the law died to us?

In what ways have we been released from the law? What are the implications of this for service?

How does being freed from the law enable us to serve in a new way? How might this apply to various areas of our life (ex: marriage, work, etc.)?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?