

Small Group Discussion Guide

Romans 7:1–6 — Belonging to Christ

Big Idea

The gospel does not simply release us from condemnation; it joins us to the risen Christ so that our lives can bear fruit for God.

Key Verse

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you also were put to death in relation to the law through the body of Christ so that you may belong to another. You belong to him who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God.”
— Romans 7:4

Opening Question

1. When you hear the word **performance**, what areas of life immediately come to mind? Where do you feel the most pressure to prove yourself?

Read Romans 7:1–6 Together

Understanding the Passage

2. Paul uses the illustration of marriage in verses 1–3. What point is he making about death changing a person's relationship to the law?
3. Verse 4 says that believers have been “put to death in relation to the law through the body of Christ.” What do you think Paul means by that?
4. Paul does not simply say that we have been released from something. He says we now **“belong to another—to him who was raised from the dead.”** Why is that distinction important?

Grace, Performance, and Belonging

5. Consider these two ways of approaching God:

“I need to obey so that God will accept me.”

and

“God has accepted me in Christ, therefore I want to obey.”

How are these two motivations different? How might each one affect the way a Christian lives?

6. Why do you think Christians sometimes slip back into trying to earn God's approval even after understanding the gospel?

7. The sermon emphasized:

“My standing with God is not based on what I have done for Christ. It is based on what Christ has done for me.”

Where is that truth hardest for you to believe or live out?

Bearing Fruit for God

8. Romans 7:4 says that we belong to Christ **“in order that we may bear fruit for God.”** What kind of fruit should increasingly appear in the life of someone who belongs to Jesus?
9. What is the difference between trying to manufacture spiritual fruit through willpower and seeing fruit produced because Christ's life is at work within us?

Communion and the Gospel

10. Communion reminds us both that Christ **died for us** and that we now **belong to Him**. How should remembering those truths change the way we approach God when we have failed, sinned, or feel spiritually inadequate?

