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February 14, 2021

## THE GIFT OF UNION

It is human nature to try to beat the system and make it work in our favour.

We need to be united to Jesus Christ, the one who perfectly kept the law.

📖 Romans 7:1-6

### ❖ **The law is limited in its power to change our lives.**

A person who comes to faith in Christ dies to the law.

The law has authority over someone only as long as a person lives.

The law may give us time to work things out but it can't bring repentance, forgiveness and healing.

We need more than the acknowledgement that we were wronged. We desperately need God's grace!

### ❖ **God's grace is unlimited in its power to change our lives.**

God so dramatically changes us from within that we go **beyond** the law to live right before Him.

"So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God." v4

When a person becomes a brand new believer through faith in Jesus Christ they die to the law and become united to Christ.

The law says, "The wages of sin is death". God's grace says, "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord".

God's grace frees us to treat others in the way that He has treated us.

Before Christ, the law helped to restrain you. Now in union with Christ, God's grace redeems you.

Before Christ, the law revealed your sin. Now in union with Christ, God's grace restores us into a full relationship with Himself.

Before Christ, the law tried to retrain you. Now in union with Christ you are released into a brand new way of living and serving God.

- **You have spiritual passions.**

"When we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death." v5

- **You have spiritual power.**

"But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code." v6

- **You have spiritual fruit.**

"...You also died to the law through the body of Christ that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God." v4

God calls us into a new marriage of union with Him so that by His grace we will produce the fruit of His holy character.

### Questions for reflection

- What is that you are trying to change by the law that only God's grace can accomplish?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do you most need God to produce in your life at this time to display His likeness?