

Baptism of the Holy Spirit: Positional Separation of Soul & Body

This is God's order and contributes to the stability of a society and especially to the stability of the home. The word for love in Ephesians 5:25 is the familiar *agapao* and also is an imperative, this one a direct command for the husband to unconditionally love his wife. Because some men don't, does not change the principle that the wife is to submit to his authority. Human failure is incapable of altering absolute principles established by the righteousness of God.

Paul uses an illustration which is crystal clear to even the Gentiles he addresses in the Roman church: while living, the wife is bound to her own husband except for legitimate divorce or death.

In the example, the wife represents the believer in his former status of unbelief; the spouse is the first husband which is the sinful nature.

The marriage counselor is the Mosaic Law which advises the unbeliever of his status: his is spiritually dead and in slavery to a tyrannical husband, the sinful nature.

The Order Code, or Ten Commandments, points out the problems of total depravity and submission to the sinful nature while the Spiritual Code points out the solution to them—faith alone in Christ alone.

Retroactive positional truth identifies the sinner with the spiritual death, physical death, and burial of Jesus and thus moves him out from under the authority of the sinful nature.

Since the sinner is positionally dead in Christ, then the power of the sinful nature has been broken. The sinner, saved by grace, is now married to her second Husband, Jesus Christ, by means of current positional truth. Since the new believer is positionally alive in Christ, then he is privileged to enter into "*newness of life*." Nevertheless, both parties are still alive but positionally they are dead to each other.

The documentation from the Law for Paul's illustration is:

Deuteronomy 24:1 - When a man takes a wife and marries her and it comes to pass that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found something shameful in her, then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and put it in her hand and send her out of his house.

Deuteronomy 24:2 - And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

Divorce terminates the first marriage and gives the freed party the right to remarry just as at physical death the surviving party may also remarry.

Romans 7:3 - Consequently, therefore, if while her husband is living, she has become intimately united with another man, she shall be classified as an adulteress. But if her husband has died, she is free from that Law so that she is not an adulteress though she is married to another man.

Please note that as far as Paul's illustration and analogy is concerned, the sinful nature does not die. It remains active in the DNA of the nuclei and present in every cell of the body. Therefore, in the illustration, death is equal to divorce as far as the sinful nature is concerned. However, the sinner does die in the sense that he is positionally identified with Christ on the cross in His spiritual and physical deaths and His subsequent burial.

Consequently, the believer dies to her first husband at salvation but the first husband is not dead and wants his first wife back. He courts her by means of his seductive entreaties:

1. In its area of weakness, the temptation to commit personal sin.
2. In its area of strength, the arrogance of human good and evil.
3. In its trends, either licentiousness or asceticism.
4. In its lust patterns, enticement to certain ingrained propensities: