

— Romans 7.2-6 —
Pentecost 2025
Pentecost – Old Testament and New

Rm 7 ²[T]he woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. ³So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. ⁴Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another – to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ⁵For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. ⁶But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

► Christians rightly think of Pentecost as Christ pouring out his Spirit upon his disciples, but it comes as a shock to most Christians to learn that the very first Pentecost was the giving of the _____ at Mt Sinai (Ex 19-20).

Rm 7 ⁹ I was alive once apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died ...
¹²[T]he law is ... holy, just, and good ... ¹⁴... the law is spiritual.

► It is the connection between the law and the Spirit and _____ that we must understand to fully understand and appreciate Pentecost. That's exactly what Paul is explaining to us in our sermon text. You see, _____ are the woman (1Cor 10.1-11).

► Scripture presents the proceedings at Mt Sinai as a spiritual _____ ceremony between God and the people, with the ten commandments as the wedding _____ of the bride (e.g., Ex 20.2).

Ex 20 ³“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Jer 2 ² Thus says the Lord: “I remember ... the love of your betrothal, when you followed Me in the wilderness.”

Jer 3 ¹⁴ “Return, O backsliding children,” says the Lord; “for I am married to you”

► In the OT, the wedding _____ were exchanged at the time of the betrothal, even though the couple did not come together until the wedding _____, which was a separate celebration. This custom lies behind all of the marriage imagery associated with Mt Sinai and the first advent of Christ.

► The whole history of God's people from the call of Abraham forward is a love story of Christ, God the Son, taking a spiritual _____ (Eze 16.1-14). And remember that in the OT Israel represented the human _____. That's the backdrop for Paul's story of the woman in our sermon text.

► By the time of Christ's first advent, the woman who is Israel and us had committed _____ repeatedly. Her beautiful wedding vows that were all about _____, faithfulness, and blessedness were now condemning her and placing her under a _____ sentence.

Jer 3 ²⁰ “Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel”

Hos 3 ¹ “Go ..., love a woman who is ... an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods”

► The woman who is Israel and us has no hope unless three things can be done, none of which she has the power to do:

- 1) She needs to be _____ to Christ, and for him to place his Spirit within her and write the marriage vows on her heart, so she can be faithful and blessed.

Jer 31 ³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel – ... ³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers ... [when I led] them out of ... Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them ... ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their

God, and they shall be My people ...³⁴ ... For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

- 2) She needs to be _____ from her marriage vows which are condemning her, so she can be married to Christ in the new covenant.

- 3) She needs to _____ the death sentence that is hanging over her.

► This is where Christ comes in, because Christ does it _____.

- Who is the first husband? _____
_____ (1Cor 10).

- Who is the one who dies and releases the woman from her wedding vows? _____

- Who satisfied the woman's death sentence for adultery?

- Who is the second husband? _____

► Christ takes us to himself anew. We are now released from vows we _____. The death sentence has been _____. Now we have the marriage vows, God's law of _____, written on our hearts and in our minds, so we can be faithful and bear the fruit of love. We can now walk "in the newness of the _____ and not in the oldness of the letter" written on tablets of stone. The one who has done all of this for us is Christ, the one we _____ on to start with. There has never been a _____ story like this, and it's all _____, and _____ are in it. All of this is what _____ is about.