I. Slide #1 Announce:
   A. Belize Fund Raiser Today. Tony/Shirley Murrillo’s burritos, only $3 [after all 3 services, by donut table]
   B. Christian Foster families needed: Rancho Jireh Foster Homes will host an information meeting Mon, May 7th, see poster on the bulletin board.

II. Slide #2 Intro:
   A. When asked to account for the sleeping giant Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines (asleep some 500yr), a research scientist from the Philippines Department of Volcanology observed, "When a volcano is silent for many years, our people forget that it's a volcano and begin to treat it like a mountain"
   1. Like Mount Pinatubo, our sinful nature always has the potential to erupt, bringing great harm both to ourselves and to others.
      a) The biggest mistake we can make is to ignore the volcano and move back onto what seems like a dormant mountain.
   2. Never forget, your old nature is a Volcano…not simply a mountain!

   B. Let’s fly at 30,000 feet for a minute & look down at Romans.
      1. Justification is an accomplished event for the Christian (ch.’s 3-5)
      2. Now Paul is describing the process of the believers Sanctification (ch’s 6-8).
         a) Rom.6 = Freed from Sin. Rom.7 = Freed from Law. Rom.8 = Free to Live by the Spirit.
      3. Does free mean easy? No way. Positional freedom in Christ doesn’t guarantee constant experiential freedom from our sin nature.
   C. As Paul used the analogy of slavery in ch.6, now he uses the metaphor of marriage to illustrate our freedom from the law.

D. Slide #3 Outline:
   1. The Law is Dead to Me (New Husband, New Fruit, New Service);
   2. The Law: Reveals(Sin), Arouses(Sin), Ruins(the Sinner), Reflects(the Sinfulness of Sin)

III. Slide #4 THE LAW IS DEAD TO ME! (1-6)
   A. Slide #5 NEW HUSBAND! (1-3)
   B. We haven’t only died to sin(6:2) but also to the law(7:4).
      1. Thus, the law no longer wields authority over us.
      2. Paul laid down the principle that the law exercises lordship over a person only as long as that person “lives”.
         a) Death cancels the Law’s claim upon that individual.
3. To illustrate this he uses the **covenant of marriage**.
   a) A married woman is legally bound to her husband as long as he **lives**.
      (1) I got a call as a brand new Pastor in the early 90’s from Romaine (Chuck Smith’s Assist Pastor). That usually wasn’t good. “Mr. Bell, do you marry people that are already married?” A lady had come in that was married to a person I was doing pre-marital counseling with. He said it was divorced. We discussed the divorce. We stopped the counseling.
      (2) **No, you can’t marry someone that is still married!**
   b) But if he **dies**, she is free to marry another man.
   c) She is “**released**” – *katargeo*; to render inoperative, abolish.
      (1) (i.e.) She is **completely** absolved or discharged.
      (a) Ps: it can be seen as a special thing if a widow/er remarries right away. “Marriage was good to them”!

4. The death of the believer took place **when** by faith that person became identified w/ the **crucified** Christ.
   a) Slide #6 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal.2:20

C. **Think about it…** If a marriage must be based on **laws** instead of **love**, it is going to make for an **unhappy** home.
   1. We **were** in bondage to **sin** & **written regulations**. **Law was** our old master. **Now** we are **set free to serve** our New Master in a new way, in the Spirit.
   2. Be true to your husband, **Jesus Christ**!

D. **Slide #7 NEW FRUIT!** (4,5)

E. The **sinful passions** our old nature only brought forth **fruit to death**.
   Our death to the Law, our remarriage to Christ brings forth **fruit to God**.
   1. **NLT**, **As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God**.

F. The purpose of this death then is not to **make us a widow/widower**, but that we might **belong to another** husband!
   1. Our Savior becomes our new **“husband”**!
   2. **Why? That, we should bear fruit to God!**
   3. Roy Hession in *The Calvary Road* said, “We are not called upon to **produce** the fruit, but simply to **bear** it.”
G. Slide #8 NEW SERVICE! (6)

H. Now, we will serve in the newness of the Spirit.
   1. No longer serving from guilt. No longer from a “have to” mindset. No longer from a “trying to please Him” standpoint.

IV. Slide #9 THE LAW: REVEALS, AROUSES, RUINS, & REFLECTS! (7-12)

A. Slide #10 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe [YuHan Wufgan von Goo-Ter] (German poet, dramatist, novelist, scientist) said, “God had enough for a saint & a devil, and He put it all in me.”
   1. Maybe you’ve felt the same at times in your Christian walk.

B. Believers, do you long to live on a higher plane? - But do you find yourself constantly being dragged to the abyss of disobedience by the power of sin?
   1. Struggle & conflict are typical of Christian experience. Defeat & Despair don’t have to be!

C. Slide #11 THE LAW REVEALS SIN! (7b)

D. (7) If the law cannot change us or control us...What good is it?
   1. To reveal sin, and it does its job well!
   2. Example the Law revealed Covetousness as sin. Covetousness is simply craving more of what you have enough of already.¹

E. A stick plunged into a stream will at once show the direction of the current.
   1. A law plunged into our heart will at once show the direction of our flesh nature.

F. Slide #12,13 THE LAW AROUSES SIN! (8)

G. (8) Taking opportunity – (lit.) Taking a starting point.
   1. A base for military operations for an expedition. (LKGNT)
      a) Paul knew sin had a base camp in our souls which is constantly carrying out missions against us!
      b) It’s hard fighting an enemy on their soil…but even harder to fight against hidden terrorist in our own country! And such is sin!!!

         (1) A hidden terrorist is hard to spot because they’re not easily identifiable. They don’t wear a uniform, but purposely blend in with the rest.
         (2) They do their best to remain hidden and are spread all over the world.
         (3) There are also "sleeper cells" which means that they are dormant or on standby. One of the purposes of these kinds of groups is to simply blend in and remain undetected until they are told to carry out their attack.

¹ Haddon Robinson
Thus our sinful nature lurks in our souls. It isn’t always easily identifiable. It remains hidden. It is spread all over our mind, soul, body. It lies dormant or on standby. It blends in & remains undetected until it is ready to carry out its attack against us or others.

H. Paul learned that the Law even aroused evil desires in him!

1. Wow! If something as holy as God’s law can arouse sinful desires, what wicked sinners we must be!

2. Can your conscience relate to these thoughts...
   a) “I know Adultery to be wrong, but as I watch this TV show I find myself rooting for this couple as they seem so right for each other, even made for each other!”
   b) “I know that is not how a Christian should behave by talking with his fists, but man can he fight!”

3. Yes we know unmistakably that knowing God’s laws arouses evil desires in us also!
   a) This is also what gives it the characteristic of transgression!

4. The Law brings out the worse in us, but Love brings out the best in us!

I. Slide #14 THE LAW RUINS THE SINNER! (9-11)

J. (11) Sin...deceived me – The trouble with trouble is that it usually starts out as a whole lot of fun.

K. Slide #15 THE LAW REFLECTS THE SINFULNESS OF SIN! (12,13)

L. (12) Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.
   1. And yet it reveals sin(7), provokes sin(8), & results in death(9-11)
   2. What does this bring to light concerning the character of sin?
      a) Wow! It is powerful!

M. So is our problem a Law problem or a Nature problem? (Nature problem)

N. Slide #16 1st Example: If I place in a bottle, Baking Soda (representing our Nature)
   1. It is still & quiet until another substance is added.
   2. If I then pour Vinegar (representing the Law)
      a) It begins to smoke & bubble up, but not from the fault of the vinegar, but from the nature of the Baking Soda which will not endure it.
   3. Thus proving, the law is not at fault, but our evil & wicked nature is!

O. Slide #17 2nd Example: It’s a sunny summer day & you decide to jump in the water at the beach in Oceanside. It feels great. While swimming you notice a sign on the pier, “No swimming sharks in the water!” Your day is ruined.
1. Is it the signs fault? - Are you angry w/the people who put the sign up?
2. The law is like the sign. It is essential & you should be grateful for it. – But it doesn’t get rid of the sharks!

P. Slide #18 3rd Example: When you read “Wet Paint, Don’t touch” what do you immediately want to do? Or, “No U-Turns”, “Keep off the Grass”.

Q. Slide #19 St. Augustine tells in his Confessions (pg.29) that he stole pears from a pear tree…& didn’t even like pears!
   1. He did it because it was forbidden!
   2. Growing up in Whittier, our house backed up to Monte Vista H.S. - Me & my friend Steve committed breaking & entering for Tennis Balls! [& neither of us played tennis!]
      a) It’s not a Law problem...it’s a nature problem!

R. End: Remember, our old nature is like a Volcano not just a mountain!
   1. But look what God can make from an old Volcano!
      a) Slide #20-22 Show Lake Pinatubo!