

No Condemnation! (*Part 2*)

Romans 8:1-4

Thought for the Day: In Christ, God forgives us of all our sins and transgressions—past, present and future. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation!

“Romans 8 is the Christian’s ‘Declaration of Freedom,’ for in it Paul declares the four spiritual freedoms we enjoy because of our union with Jesus Christ.”

1. Freedom from Judgment – No Condemnation (8:1-4)
2. Freedom from Defeat – No Obligation (8:5-17)
3. Freedom from Discouragement – No Frustration (8:18-30)
4. Freedom from Fear – No Separation (8:31-39)

(Wiersbe, Be Right, p. 97ff)

In Romans 8:1-4, Paul tells us that we have the privilege of declaring our freedom from the judgment and condemnation of God found in the Law because of our union with Jesus Christ in His death on cross.

- Just as we cannot *save* ourselves by our own efforts, so we cannot *sanctify* ourselves in the energy of the flesh.
- Sanctification, growth in holiness, is a ministry of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us as He works to transform us from the inside out into the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- “We are not saved by grace and then sanctified by our own labors... humanity can no more purify itself of sin *after* salvation than *before*. Only God can purify [and perfect] a soul.”
(Charles Swindoll, Insights on Romans, p. 154)
- Sanctification is a lifelong divine-human partnership in which, by means of the spiritual disciplines, we pursue intimate relationship with the Lord; and in that process, the Holy Spirit progressively makes us more like our Savior in character and conduct. (2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Timothy 4:7; Philippians 2:12-13)

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

- **Therefore:** A very important *connecting* word that signals that what follows is based on and flows out of what precedes.
- What follows? No condemnation! Why?
 - Because we are *in* Christ Jesus.
 - Because when God looks at those who are in Christ Jesus, He sees the righteousness of His Son.
 - If God will not condemn His Son, He will not condemn those who are in His Son!
(Ephesians 1:3)
 - How do we come to be in Christ Jesus? We are in Christ Jesus when He is in us. How does Christ come to be in us? We invite Him in! (Revelation 3:20; John 14:18-23; 1 John 5:11-13)

- What precedes? Our struggle with sin and our fallen sinful nature. (Romans 7:13-25)
 - Verse 24 – Paul is in the valley of despair and despondency because of the overwhelming conspiracy between sin and his sinful nature (the flesh).
 - Verse 25 – Paul is on the mountain top looking over into the Promised Land of deliverance from this conspiracy through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Verse 8:1 – Paul has now entered in and discovered that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! In Christ, he can be delivered from “the body of death” and “the law of sin” (7:24-25; his body used as an instrument by his tyrannical sinful nature to engage in sin resulting in death and separation from God).
- Our ongoing struggle with sin is real, but the war has been won and the victory is sure—the Lord will *NEVER* condemn us!
- Jesus has already suffered the condemnation we deserve and its consequences on our behalf!
- **No condemnation:** to pronounce or declare guilty, usually after the weighing of evidence; to convict. (*Webster’s Dict.*)
 - “There is no condemnation...” In it’s place there is now justification (to declare “not guilty”) for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - Romans 3:23-24, 28; 4:22-24; 5:1, 9, 16-18; 8:28-30. Cf. John 3:16-18.
 Born of the Spirit with life from above Into God’s family divine,
 Justified *fully* thro’ Calvary’s love—O what a standing is mine!
 And the transaction so quickly was made When as a sinner I came—
 Took of the offer of grace He did proffer. He saved me; O praise His dear name!”
 (2nd stanza – *Heaven Came Down* by John W. Peterson)
- **In Christ Jesus:**
 - 1 Corinthians 15:22 – “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”
 - Romans 3:14 – “the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” [We have been purchased and set free from the marketplace of sin]
 - Romans 6:11 – we are “alive to God in Christ Jesus.” [Responsive to Him; we can have an intimate, personal relationship with Him]
 - Romans 6:22 – we receive “...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.” [His righteousness replaces our sinfulness, guilt and shame]
 - Romans 6:23 – “...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [Not only eternity in heaven, but a new quality of life, the abundant life Jesus promised His followers in John 10:10]
 - Romans 8:1 – “there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
 - Romans 8:2 – we are “set free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” [The Holy Spirit empowers us to live free of the indwelling power of our sinful nature]
 - Romans 8:39 – nothing can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [We experience and enjoy God’s unfailing love]

The burden that once I carried is gone, Of all my sins there remaineth not one.
 Jesus, the Savior, hath ransomed me, Bearing my sins upon Calvary.

Giving me glorious liberty; My burden of sin is gone! (by Haldor Lillenas)