

# No Condemnation

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,  
who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

*Romans 8:1*

## REVIEW

### **I. Definition**

- A. Condemnation is a statement of strong criticism or disapproval. It is to declare wrong, awful, guilty, or evil; to censure, blame, reprove, rebuke, reproach, or reprimand. Examples of use:
1. “North Korea's igniting a nuclear bomb brought swift global condemnation.”
  2. A deacon should be “not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.” (I Tim. 3:6)
  3. “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:19)

### **II. Illustrations**

- A. A father experiences great condemnation from his society and himself after accidentally driving off with his baby in a carrier on the roof of the car.
- B. The sound of silence echoing,  
beneath an unforgiving sky.  
This is the place of reckoning.  
All my past sins parading by.
- I am abandoned and alone.  
As I know I deserve to be.  
Is there no way I can atone  
for things I did unthinkingly?
- Must I endure this misery  
behind the walls which I have built.  
Condemned to watch eternally  
the evidence of my past guilt.

### **III. What is *not* meant in our text**

- A. It does not mean a soul will never deal with accusations or guilt of any sort again.
- B. We have, for example, an enemy who may make us constantly to feel *guilty*.
1. He is the “accuser of the brethren,” who accuses us day and night (Rev. 12:10). The Greek word for *accuser* is used in court for the one who brought criminal charges against a man.
  2. See Satan's low view of humanity, as revealed in Job 1:9.

3. He obtained Peter, that he might sift him as wheat (Luke 22:31).
4. He may use people – (aged women) Titus 2:3, (deacons' wives) I Tim. 3:11.

C. We also have the world that hates Christ and all who identify with Him.

1. “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” (John 15:19)
2. This is a given, an absolute, not sought, but unavoidable. Adjust to this reality.
3. People may not ever admire a believer's lifestyle, appearance, tastes, sacrifices, logic, method of child-rearing, evangelism, priorities, or convictions, but rather may find cause to condemn.
4. What did King Ahab say of God's prophet Micaiah but “I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.” (I Ki. 22:8)

D. A believer is also not exempt from real-life, temporal consequences for errors done.

1. If we commit a crime, we *should* feel condemnation until the day we make things right.
2. David suffered consequences for his adultery and for numbering his people, though ultimately his sins were as far separated from him as the east from the west.

E. So our text is not saying that we will live a condemnation-free life in every regard in this temporal world. The devil, the world, and error-prone self will see to that.

#### **IV. What kind of condemnation is meant in this text**

A. The kind of condemnation described here is the judicial act of declaring a person guilty and dooming him or her to punishment. It means both conviction and sentence.

1. In the Scriptures this means specifically to be under divine judgment for sin (Rev. 20:11-12).

B. This condemnation is the natural lot of us all.

1. “The Scripture hath concluded all under sin.” (Gal. 3:22)
2. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” (Rom. 5:12)

C. We can't fix it.

1. “For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD.” (Jer. 2:22)
2. “If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean; Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.” (Job 9:30-31)

D. The punishment to which all sinners are doomed is separation from God forever.

1. “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” (Isa. 59:2)

## **V. The certainty of this condemnation or deliverance from it**

A. The lost are condemned already.

1. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:36)
2. "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (Jn 3:18)
3. This we can count on as surely as the sun coming up tomorrow. More actually.

B. Believers' deliverance from condemnation is absolutely certain.

1. Clearly the intent of Rom. 8:1 is to give assurance, instill confidence, and gain comfort. Cf:
2. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24)
3. See also John 10:27-30.

## **VI. The degree of deliverance from condemnation**

A. Don't rush by that little word "no." This is not comparative but absolute. Not one part guilt per trillion parts innocence. Not one speck of condemnation in all the universe. No tinge of guilt. No possibility ever of recalling or revisiting any failure, no matter how profound, habitual, foul, egregious, harmful, shameful, known, hidden, premeditated, vile, deep, rebellious, or nagging.

B. Here is a common point of error for other religions. People think they must add something to complete the deal. Meet God half way. Somehow participate in an atoning for sin. But we can't. There's nothing left to do. Jesus said, "It is finished." Review Eph. 2:8-9.

## **VII. When there is no condemnation**

A. Note: this verse is in present tense. The moment a person believes on Christ, the condemnation is removed. Forever. Present reality. At any moment we die we go straight to glory.

B. What of "who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"?

1. Some question the textual origin; nevertheless the doctrine is consistent with other texts. The issue is evidence of piety as in Gal. 5:19-21 vs. Gal. 5:22-23.
2. The intent of this summary verse is confirmation and encouragement, not uncertainty and fear.
3. To presume God would leave the retaining of salvation on so fickle a twig as man's capability to hold on, or to think His act not sufficient in itself, or that man could possibly live perfectly, or that some sins would merit loss and others not, is totally out of keeping with the spirit of the assurance that we have passed from death unto life. The verse communicates permanency.

### **VIII. Why there is no condemnation**

- A. Because it all fell on Christ. The entire artillery was emptied on Him. There's none left to fall on us. All demands of the Law have been met. See Isa. 53:6, I Pet. 3:18.
- B. There may be other things – chastening, prompting, etc., but no condemnation.
- C. Hence, note the solitary hope of Christ. He alone is the answer to our sin problem.

### **IX. What there is instead of condemnation**

- A. Note: this is for those “in” Christ Jesus. Cf. Phil. 1:1, :9; Rom. 16:7-11; etc.
- B. This is no mere legal arrangement, but a LIFE. See John 15:1-6.

### **X. What to do**

- A. Get “in” Christ Jesus. John 1:12.
- B. See the Lord's affection and humanity in “Go, and Sin No More,” by Walter Whitmore-Jones
- C. See the rejoicing in “There is no condemnation,” by Paul Gerhardt

There is no condemnation, there is no hell for me,  
The torment and the fire my eyes shall never see;  
For me there is no sentence, for me has death no stings,  
Because the Lord Who saved me shall shield me with His wings.  
No angel, and no Heaven, no throne, nor power, nor might,  
No love, no tribulation, nor anger, fear nor fight,  
No height, no depth, no creature that has been or can be,  
Can drive me from Thy bosom, can sever me from Thee.

### DISCUSSION

1. What kinds of condemnation can Christians still expect? From what kind should we now be freed?
2. What is your counsel for how to deal with any remaining sense of guilt a believer feels?
3. How does a person find sweet fellowship with Christ? How do we come to know the love of Christ?