

## No Condemnation

### Romans 8:1-4

August 6, 2020

#### Review

- Chs 5-8 The gospel and the sure hope it gives
- 5:1-11 Blessed results of justification
- 5:12-21 The reign of God's grace in the second Adam, and how it is superior to the reign of sin through the first Adam
- Ch 6 The triumph of grace over the power of sin
- 7:1-8:17 The triumph of grace over the power of the law
- 7:1-6 The Christian has been released from the law in order to come under Christ's authority and be joined to Him forever, and now serves God in the New Covenant way, the way of the Holy Spirit, not in the Old Covenant way, the way of the written code
- 7:7-13 The goodness and impotence of the law, as seen in the effect the law had upon Paul before he was joined to Christ
- 7:14-23 The goodness and impotence of the law, as seen in Paul's inability as a Christian, in and of himself, to obey the law, even with a new heart that truly delights in it
- 7:24-25 The cry of the Christian to his Savior to deliver him from "this body of death," both now in sanctification and in the future in glorification

#### No condemnation in Christ (1)

*Question:* What is the significance of verse 1 for our lives as Christians?

"therefore"

- Looks back to all Paul has said in this epistle concerning the gospel of God, including **7:4, 6**

“now”

- Now that we are “in Christ Jesus”

“condemnation”

1. God’s judicial sentence upon all who are in Adam. It will be publicly issued at the final judgment (2:3-11), but is already certain
2. A guilty verdict, and the penalty it demands

We came under God’s condemnation when Adam sinned. But God reversed it when we were justified by His grace in Christ (**5:16, 18**).

**John 5:24** “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

Romans 8:1 means the believer is no longer under God’s condemnation, and never will be again!

The believer possesses perfect and eternal security in Christ

### **The believer has been liberated by the Spirit of life (2)**

“the law of sin”

1. Referred to in **7:22-23, 25**
2. The flesh’s demand for us to sin
3. A law that is aroused by the law of God (7:8-9)

“the law of...death”

1. **Rom. 6:23a** “For the wages of sin is death,”
2. Revealed in the law of God (7:9-11, 13)

“has set you free in Christ Jesus”

1. From sin’s penalty
2. From sin’s power

“the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus”

1. Speaks of the principle that when the Spirit comes to indwell a person who is spiritually dead, the Spirit gives that person spiritual and eternal life, freeing them from sin’s penalty and power
2. The Spirit unites the sinner to Christ, and applies to the sinner the finished work of Christ
3. **Rom. 5:5** “and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
4. **John 6:63–64a** “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.”
5. When the Spirit enters a person, that person is liberated and finds a new power within

### **God has condemned the believer’s sin in the flesh of His Son (3)**

*Question:* How does verse 3 amaze you?

“what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do”

1. 7:7-23 taught that the law cannot justify nor sanctify
2. The law cannot give the life it promises (7:10)

“By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh”

1. Does not say, “in sinful flesh”
  - **2 Cor. 5:21** “For our sake he made him to be sin **who knew no sin**, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
  - **Heb. 4:15** “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, **yet without sin.**”
2. Does not say, “in the likeness of flesh”
  - Jesus was and continues to be fully human
3. Says, “in the likeness of sinful flesh”
  - He became like us in every respect, but without sin
  - He was not immune to death

“By sending his own Son...for sin”

- To atone for sin

“he condemned sin in the flesh”

1. In the flesh of Christ
2. God took the condemnation due us, and poured it out completely on His Son as our Substitute
3. On the basis of Christ’s death for us, we were freed when we received the Holy Spirit

The Father planned, initiated, and brought about our redemption!

### **The purpose of no condemnation (4)**

Our sin was condemned **in Christ** (end of verse 3), in order that the righteous requirement of the law would be fulfilled **in us**.

1. *John Stott*: “God condemned sin in Christ, so that holiness might appear in us”<sup>1</sup>
2. Not speaking of the imputation of Christ’s righteousness, but the production in us of obedience to God’s moral law
  - This fulfillment of the law is explained in the rest of the verse
  - Connects back to being freed from the law of sin (8:2)
  - Practical righteousness has already been taught to be part of the purpose of salvation (**6:4; 7:4**)
  - The only other place in Romans where Paul speaks of the law being “fulfilled” is **13:8-10**, which speaks of obedient living
3. Since God’s purpose never fails, obedience to God is the inevitable result of being saved

“who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit”

1. Living that is directed by the Spirit through His word, and empowered by the Spirit
2. Synonymous with following Jesus Christ
3. Not perfection, but what characterizes the Christian
4. The evidence of salvation

The gospel of grace does not give license to live however one pleases. Rather, the gospel alone produces true obedience to the law of God.

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<sup>1</sup> In James Montgomery Boice, *Romans*, 2:800.