

“There Is Therefore Now No Condemnation”

Romans 8:1-17

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Teaching Aim: To help people understand that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. To have every Christian examine his or her life to see if they really are being Spirit led or not. To help people realize the carnal mind will only result in death while being spiritually minded will lead to eternal life. To demonstrate every true believer in Christ is brought into God's family by adoption with full rights and benefits at the moment of regeneration (or new birth).

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1-4)

1. What does the word “*condemnation*” mean to you (**vs. 1**)? (See Dictionary) Why should this word frighten everyone who refuses to believe in Jesus? Why are unbelievers condemned while born-again believers in Jesus Christ are forgiven? (See **Rom. 3:23; John 3:16-18, 36**) What is the only solution for the unbeliever condemned by his or her sins? (See **Rom. 3:21-24**)

2. Paul contrasts two laws in **verse 2**, what are they? What member of the Holy Trinity is “*the Spirit of life*” a synonym for? Was the Holy Spirit involved in the original generation (or giving of life) at the creation of the universe? (See **Gen. 1:1-5**) Does the Holy Spirit bring new life to the believer in Jesus at the moment of regeneration? (See **John 1:1-8**) What is Paul referring to when he says, “*the law of sin and death*?”

3. Through the Mosaic Law, we find the revelation of God's holy character (**vs. 3**). God's law also serves as a tutor to point us to our need for Jesus Christ. (See **Gal. 3:24**) Though the law reveals our sin, it has no power to save us. What did God do for us out of His great love? (See **Rom. 3:3; 1 John 4:14; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; John 3:16**)

4. What did Paul mean when he wrote that Jesus was sent in “*the likeness of sinful flesh*” (**vs. 3**)? (See **Isa. 7:14**) What are some ways that Jesus is different from any other person ever born? (See **2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 John 3:5**) What specific act did Christ do to “*condemn sin in the flesh*?” (See **Rom. 5:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:3-4**)

5. The substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ is crucial to our salvation (**vs. 4**). Why? Whose place was He taking? How does the atonement of Jesus Christ relate to the Old Testament sacrificial system? (See **Exod. 12:1-7**) How is it different? According to **verse 4b**, how can we identify the true believer from the false professor? What is meant when we say that a person is walking according to the flesh? What is meant when we say that a person is walking according to the Spirit? Which of the two would define your walk?

Part II: The carnal mind is at enmity with God (Rom. 8:5-16)

1. How would you describe a person's lifestyle who "*lives according to the things of the flesh*" (**vs. 5**)? What kind of danger are they in? What is a person's lifestyle like who "*sets their minds on the things of the Spirit?*" How would other people describe your lifestyle?
2. What does it mean for a person to be "*carnal?*" (See Dictionary) What results from being "*carnally minded*" according to **verse 6**? Notice that being spiritually minded leads to "*life and peace.*" What kind of peace do people really need more than any other? (See **Rom. 5:1**)
3. What can we learn about fallen humanity from **verse 7**? What does it mean to be at "*enmity against God?*" (See Dictionary) According to **verse 7**, does fallen man (meaning the unbeliever) have within himself or herself the ability to walk with God in their own strength? Why or why not? (See **Eph. 2:1-4**)
4. From the world's perspective, there seems to be a lot of "*good people*" (including unbelievers). Are there any good unbelievers from God's point of view? Why or why not? (See **Rom. 3:10-12**) According to **verse 8**, do "*unbelievers*" have the ability to please God? If not, why not? (See **Heb. 11:6; Col. 2:13-14**) What is your motivation for doing the things that you do?

5. What is a key factor to having the Spirit of God dwell in you (**vs. 9**)? How can we tell if the Spirit of God is living in an individual (**vs. 9**)? (See **Matt 7:15-20**) Who clearly knows the heart of every person? (See **Jer. 17:9-10**) What does God promise us according to **Jer. 17:10**? Is this consistent when it comes to other Scriptures that refer to future judgements? (See **2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:11-15**) Where do you struggle the most when it comes to your own heart?
6. Even if Christ is in you, the body will still die physically because of sin unless the rapture comes first. According to **verse 10**, what double imputation must take place for us to be saved (**vs. 10**)?
7. What incredible promise is given by God to every born-again believer in **verse 11**? (See **1 Cor. 6:14; 15:20,23; 2 Cor. 4:14; Phil. 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:14**) What makes the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important to you today? Why should the resurrection be an encouragement to every born-again Christian today?
8. According to **verse 12** who are we debtors to? (See **vs. 11**) What should we not be debtors to? Why? What will happen if we live according to the flesh (**vs. 13**)? What will happen if we live according to the Spirit? What kind of deeds of the body should we put to death? (See **1 Cor. 6:9-10**)

Part III: Joint heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:14-17)

1. What is a good indicator that someone is a true believer (**vs. 14**)? What kind of fruit should Christians be producing? (See **John 15:5-6; Gal. 5:22-23**) What kind of fruit would people say you are producing in your life?

2. *“The spirit of bondage and fear”* relates to our slavery to sin and our fear of death under the Mosaic Law (**vs. 15**). According to **verse 15**, what remarkable event takes place the moment we receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? What is the significance of the Aramaic word *“Abba?”* (See Bible footnotes) How else can we define it? Through faith in Christ, we are the adopted sons of God. However, who is the only begotten of the Father? (See **John 1:14-18; 3:16-18; Heb. 11:17-18**) NOTE: In this sense, Jesus is our elder brother.

3. In what way does the Spirit Himself bear witness in our lives that we are children of God (**vs. 16**)? (See **Gal. 5:22-23**) Does it excite you to think you are a child of God? Why or why not? Discuss **1 John 3:1-3** and what this verse means to you personally.

4. What does it mean to be an *“heir”* of something (**vs. 17**)? What does it mean to be a joint heir? How about when we are a joint heir with Christ? What are some ways that Christians might suffer today in America? How is this different from the suffering that took place in biblical times? How is it different from the suffering Christians are experiencing in other parts of the world today? Are Christians promised a life of ease if they walk with Jesus, or are we promised difficulties in life as well? (See **2 Tim. 3:12; Jam. 1:3-4**)

5. Make a list of benefits a person receives the moment he or she comes to faith in Jesus Christ. Have you received Jesus as Savior and Lord? If not, why not repent of your sins and do so right now in prayer?

MINER’S CORNER – *Manna to live by!*

- There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- God sent his only begotten Son in the likeness of sinful flesh that the righteous requirements of the law might be fulfilled in Him so that we can be saved.
- The carnal mind (or the unsaved mind) is at war against God and is not subject to His law.
- Those who are in the flesh cannot please God; we must be born-again.
- To be carnally minded is death, to be spiritually minded brings life and peace.
- The moment we trust Jesus as our Savior, we are adopted into God’s family and become children of God with the full rights and benefits of a son or daughter.

