

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:1-17 (NLT)

1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

...

4 He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.

6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

...

13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.
14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."
16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.
17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Philippians 1:29 (NLT)

29 For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

START TALKING

Summer is over, and we say goodbye to warm weather and vacations. Now that we are back together, "What is your favorite thing about fall?"

START DISCUSSING

No Condemnation v1

Pastor Lyle said that many believe Romans is the greatest book in the Bible, Romans 8 is the greatest chapter in the Bible, and Romans 8:1 is the greatest verse in the Bible.

Why would many call this verse the greatest in the Bible?

"We cannot be condemned because Christ already was condemned."

LETTING THE SPIRIT CONTROL YOUR MIND V4-6

Pastor Lyle asked the question, "What is your mind set on?"

How can we evaluate this?

How do our lives demonstrate what our minds are set on?

He also said, "It is not how much of Him you have, but how much of you does He have." It was pointed out that we have all of the Holy Spirit from the moment of our salvation.

How do we live a life controlled by the Spirit?

PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF YOUR SINFUL NATURE V13

Pastor Lyle gave five steps in a strategy to fight the battle against our sinful nature. **Take a few minutes to discuss each one.**

- 1. Humility and Confession: Avoid pride, be willing to confess our wrongs.
- 2. Total Surrender: Give God control of every area of your life.
- 3. The Gospel: Rehearse the truths of the gospel and your salvation.
- **4. Scripture:** Be in the Word, read, study, memorize, and learn.
- **5. Pursue the Wisdom of God:** Transformation does not just happen but must be pursued; must make a decision to put into action what God says

CHILDREN OF GOD V14-17

Discuss the following phrases

14, 16 Children of God.

15 he adopted you as his own children.

Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs, coheirs with Christ

WE MUST SHARE IN HIS SUFFERING V17

We will one day share in God's glory. That is our future. But for now, we must share his suffering. This reality is spoken of throughout scripture. Beginning with Jesus' call to "take up our cross." We tend to dread it and seek to avoid it. Read the last half of Romans 8:17 and then read Philippians 1:29.

How can we come to see suffering for Christ as a privilege?