

# Romans 8:1-11

## *The Freedom We Can Experience*

Image Church // Romans 8 // Week 2

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### Intro:

Image family... Grab your Bibles, and turn to **Romans 8**!

**CELEBRATE:** Several people last week responded by saying they wanted to be baptized... Also, over the last 3 weeks, we've seen 2 people get saved! *Can we celebrate that! **All about 1 more!***

We're in *week 2* of our series called **Romans 8**, where we're answering the question, *what are the implications of the finished work of Jesus on my life?*

- *And How does something that happened in the past impact me today?*
- *What does it mean for me practically?*

Last week I started in **chapter 7** to lay the foundation for where Paul's going to take us in **chapter 8**...

- Paul showed us that we have a sin problem...
- We want to do what is right, but we don't have the power to do it...
- The harder we try, the more it exposes how bad off we are...
- The things I want to do, I don't do, and the things I don't want to do, I do...
- There's this war going on inside of us that so often leaves us feeling defeated...

And Paul closes out by saying *who will rescue me?!? What's the answer??* <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! But then he concludes with this... *So then, with my mind I myself am serving the law of God, but with my flesh, the law of sin.*

Paul closed by summarizing this war that continues to be our present reality. In our minds, we want to serve God, but our flesh still desires to serve sin... So what does this ongoing battle mean for us? Does that mean that God's going to be frustrated with us?

- Does it mean that we're not saved?
- Does it mean that we need to try harder??
- Does this whole sin thing even really matter?!?

How does the work of Jesus play into all of this?!? And what are the implications that it has on my life?? We have to see the tension that Paul holds up for us in **Chapter 7** to see the beauty of **Chapter 8**...

- *Here's Paul's answer in the midst of this tension that we live in arguably the greatest verse in all of the Bible... Here it is...*

### Romans 8:1-11

**1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, **Therefore:** in light of what Christ has done for us... There is no condemnation for those who are in Him!

I want you to sit in the freedom of this right now, some of you need to hear this for the first time...

Because the truth is that for many of us, we don't understand the nature of this...

There is a sense in which we all know that we've not measured up to God- there's a weight that we feel attached to that...

- Some of you are in the midst of battling a specific sin that continues to get the best of you...
- Some of you have walked through some dark valleys in your life...Bad divorce, abortion, addictions...

What happens is we live under the oppression of our sin... It's the thing that shapes how we view ourselves...

- We feel a sense of shame attached to it...
- We walk around feeling guilty...
- We feel unworthy and unfit...

**Illustration:**<sup>1</sup> It's like when the government condemned a building...

- They come in and evaluate it, and they decide that, based on the state and nature of the building, it's no longer fit for use...
- For many of you, this is how you feel, that based on the state of how you feel, and based on the nature of the sin in your life, you feel like you're not fit for use...

And yet what Paul's saying here is that in the spite of our sin and even in midst of the sin struggles that we all face, Paul holds up an incredible hope!

- That there's no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus!
  - This drives out guilt the guilt and shame in your life...
  - This drives out the feeling of not being good enough...
  - This drives out not being worthy enough...

You're not unfit for use, you're exactly who God wants to use...

You have been set free from the weight of sin and the penalty of sin!!

- Your sin in the past, your sin in the present, and your sin in the future...
- And there's nothing that you or anyone else can do to change that!
- You've been set free!
- Some of you need to experience that today...

**One guy says it like this:** *to insist on feeling guilty is but another way of insisting on helping God with our Salvation, how deeply embedded in human nature is the influence of works righteousness.*<sup>2</sup>

Here's why this is so important, I think the problem for so many Christians is that the sin in their lives characterizes their life more than Christ...

- Good week, good worship...
- Bad week, bad worship...  
You live with a guilt-driven **woe-is-me** mentality rather than a **worthy is the Lamb** mentality...
- For many of us, we live in light of our sin, letting it shape us more than Christ...

What this means on a practical level is that **rather than your sin driving you away from Jesus, your sin should lead you to worship Jesus!** It should lead you to Him, not from Him!!

**BTW:** This is one of the reasons that we sing!

**John Piper** says *one of the reasons why Christians sing and Muslims don't is because our fear of condemnation is gone!*<sup>3</sup>

We don't just sing to check a box or go through the motions, we sing because we're celebrating that there's no condemnation for us in Christ! We declare those truths when we sing!

- This reality should change our approach to how we sing!
  - *Appeal!*

*There's no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus...* Now, Paul begins to unpack **why** and **how...** **Verse 2:**

**2 because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.**

*Through the work of Christ, the **Spirit of life has set you free from sin and death!***

- First mention of the Spirit in **Chapter 8**, but Paul will talk about it again another **18 times!** *So more on that to come...*

But here's the thing that I want you to see, **the power of the Spirit is greater than the power of sin and death!**

- *More on this to come, but you need to see the connection here.*

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<sup>1</sup> Joby Martin, *No Condemnation*.

<sup>2</sup> Mount via Tony Merida, *The Spirit of Life*.

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<sup>3</sup> John Piper, *Why don't Muslims sing like Christians?*

**Ok, so here's what Paul's held up so far:** Jesus has freed us from the **penalty of sin**- there is now condemnation... And now we see that He's also freed us from the **power of sin**- you have been set free...

**Verse 3:** **3** For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, **4** in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**BTW:** Notice the beauty of the Trinity here: *Salvation was by the Father, Jesus paid for it, and the spirit confirms it...*<sup>4</sup>

Here's what Paul's saying: The law can't save us... But **what was impossible through the law is made possible through Christ!** God would come down and do what we couldn't do for ourselves...

See, here's the thing, we deserve to be judged by God and condemned by God for our sin...

- This is justice, and perfect justice flows out of the character of God, for Him not to execute perfect justice would make Him imperfect, which would diminish who He is...

But the good news of the gospel is that instead of God executing justice on us, He would take it on himself through Christ...

Jesus, who was perfectly innocent, would go to the cross, and He would be judged in our place, taking on the wrath of God so that we didn't have to...

**Illustration:** *Dam breaking, ground swallowing it up...*

The condemnation that our sins deserve has been poured out on Christ, who become our sin-bearer<sup>5</sup>... Substituting Himself in our place...

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<sup>4</sup> Tony Merida, *The Spirit of Life*.

<sup>5</sup> Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, 477.

**2 Corinthians 5:21:** *He made Him who knew no sin would become sin... Here's why:* so that we might become the righteousness of God!

**MD Hooker:** *Christ becomes what we are so that we can become what He is!* This is the great *interchange* that takes place!<sup>6</sup>

That in Christ He takes on our sin, and we gain access to the perfect, righteous obedience that the **law required but that we couldn't live up to!**

This is why Paul can say **there is no condemnation** for those in Christ!

And this is incredibly freeing... It means that you don't have to hope that God will let you in one day...

- It means that you can be freed from the performance mentality...
- Feeling like you have to do enough so that you can *enter the pearly gates one day...*
  - The weight of *have I done enough...*
  - *Am I good enough...*

**Illustration:** *I feel like a lot of times, we treat God like we treated our middle school crush...*

- *Can I be the ONE for her or him?*
- *And we put on a show every time we're around that person trying to win them over...*
- This is what we do with God...

It's not about what you do, it's about what Christ has done through His perfect life and His sacrificial death that you receive through faith!

And here's the beauty, it's through faith in Jesus that **the law's just demands** have been fulfilled **in us** through Him!

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<sup>6</sup> M.D. Hooker, *Interchange in Christ*.

And the way that happens is through the Holy Spirit that we receive through faith in the finished work of Jesus!

***The Spirit is how the work of Jesus is transferred to us!!***

And, it's how we have access to the **presence** and **power** of God in our lives...

- It's what gives us a new heart and a new power to walk in...

**Illustration:** How many of you have ever had your **car battery die**?

- If your battery is dead, you can put brand new spark plugs in, and it won't run, you can paint it, and it won't run...
- You can't even fix the battery you have, it can't be repaired you have to have a new battery a new source of power...

This is the same with us... And this is what the Spirit does in us... **A new source of power...**

- That gives us the ability to be transformed...

You could say it like this, *Christ is the one who justified us— made us right before God— and it's the Spirit who sanctifies us— this is the transformation process that the gospel brings in our lives!*

\*So I want you to see this... No condemnation doesn't mean live how you want: ***The work of Jesus isn't freedom to do what you want, it's the power to do as you ought to do!***<sup>7</sup>

- *We are freed by someone- Jesus- for something- to live for the glory of God!*

Paul's about to drill down on this reality in what he says next...

**Verse 5:** **5** For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. **6** Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace.

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<sup>7</sup> JD Greear.

Paul's saying that there's a distinction between **Christians** and **non-Christians**...

- **IOW:** He's saying there's something radically different about those who are in Christ and those that aren't...

For those that aren't in Christ, their minds are captivated by the things of this world... Money, success, status (job, life- popularity or pursuit of the American dream)

- This is what drives you... **set on these things**...
- And it leads you nowhere, there is no life found in these things...
- Which is why this **mindset** leads to spiritual death apart from God...

But for those **who are in Christ**, you have received the **Spirit of life** that changes your **perspective** and your **pursuit!**

- You have an awareness for the things of God...
- You have an alertness to the things of God...
- There's orientation around the things of God...<sup>8</sup>
  - His call on your life, His mission for your life...

This is what Paul means when he talks about **living according to the Spirit**... Where your mindset is on the things of Christ...

- He's the one who drives you!

You want to know the main difference between those that are in Christ and those that aren't...

- For those who are not in Christ, **the things or the world define and drive you more than the things of Jesus**...
- But for those that are in Christ, **He's the one who defines and drives your life**...

Now will we do this perfectly, no... But here is the thing, think about it like this...

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<sup>8</sup> Tony Merida, *The Spirit of Life*.

**Illustration:** If I want to go from this side of the room to the other side of the room, There are a lot of ways that I could get across this room... Walk, crawl, run, skip... **In this direction...**

- But regardless of how I get there, if I'm moving in this toward this side, there's no question the direction I'm going...

The same is true in the Christian life there will be times when we run, walk, even limp, and crawl toward the things of Jesus... But regardless of how well we are moving, there's no question in the direction we're headed...

***It isn't about being perfect in our approach, it's that we're continuing in faith with our eyes set on Jesus!***

**Verse 7:**

**7** The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. **8** Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it gives no regard for Him... There's a continual apathy toward the things of God, you live as though He really doesn't matter...

You may not say this, but functionally, this is how you live...

**The mindset of the flesh** is to live your life according to you, following your feelings and doing what you want, how you want when you want... you got this, and you call the shots... Your gain and glory!

And this can also **mask itself** through **religion...**

- Thinking it's up to your ability and your works...
- Live how you want but claim that you're religious... Makes God convenient for you to ultimately live how you want!

This is where some of you are, you're life is shaped by **you** and **not** by the Spirit at work in you!

**Illustration:** For some of you, you treat God like an **Air B&B that you own**... Only hand over the keys when you want and when it makes sense for you... But Jesus doesn't own your life...

- Some of you need to respond to Him today...

**Verse 9** Paul turns back to the Christians in Rome, and he says to them:

**9** You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God **lives** in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him.

**IOW:** The proof that you are not in the flesh, the proof that you are saved is that the Spirit of God **lives or dwells in you...**

- **To take up residence...**

Which means this: if the Spirit has taken up residence in you, then it will be reflected in your life...

**Illustration:** think about it like this:

- When you buy a home... Looks bare, and there are remains of the previous homeowner- looks bad...
- Overtime the longer you live there, the more the home begins to characterize you... Your stuff, your picture, your smell- we all have one!

This is what the **Spirit** does in us as we continue in faith with our eyes on Jesus!

Does your life show that there's a new residence inside your heart?

- Impossible to have always been saved...

The question is, **is the Spirit of Christ in you?**

- Have you surrendered to Jesus?!?
- You receive the seal of the Spirit in you through faith in the finished work of Jesus!

### Verse 10:

**10** Now if Christ is in you, [Again notice the way that Christ is in you and everyone else who believes is through the HS] the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

Paul says that the body is dead, but the Spirit gives life...

**IOW:** Death exists because of sin... And yet life is given to us through the righteousness of Christ...

Christ's *righteousness imputed* (or injected) in us through the Spirit, **which is what leads to life...**

And this leads Paul to what he says next in **Verse 11**, Here's the implications...

**11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead **lives** in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is the same Spirit and power **that lives or dwells** in you to bring about your **resurrection** in this life and the next...

This has been the plan all along...

- Access to God...
- **But God to you means God through you!!**

The Spirit's life-giving power makes change possible and undeniably at work...

- **Phil 2:13** *For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.*
- Not a question of I'm not sure...
- You can't contain this kind of power... it bleeds out in your life...

**Finally:** there is Assurance beyond the grave... He banks it on Jesus!

- Ties our resurrection to His... WOW!!!

**Illustration:** My conversation with Gamma about Les...

## Conclusion [VAMP]

**Question:** Is the Spirit of Christ in you?!?

- Have you surrendered to the finished work of Jesus??

Implications...

- Spirit in you...
- Power to change...
- Power to be set free from your past and your sin...
- Assurance now and forever...
- To know that there is no condemnation!

Some of you need to do that today!

Call to be baptized...

**Text Saved to the Number on the Screen**... Leave it on there for a little while.

**Christian:** No condemnation...

- Are you living in light of this reality? It changes everything!
- Are you leaning into the power inside of you through the Holy Spirit?
- Get out of the mundane Christianity and walk in power and freedom- enjoy what Christ has purchased for you...
- Live out the implications of it!

**PRAY**

## Discuss and Reflect

- Read Romans 8:1, What does it mean to be "in Christ Jesus"?
  - How does being "in Christ Jesus" free us from condemnation?
- Read Romans 8:1-4, according to Paul how is it possible that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus?
  - According to Paul is this freedom we have a license to sin?
- Read Romans 8:4-7, What are the two different ways of living that Paul describes?
- Read Romans 8:7-8, what do you think this means?
  - What are the consequences of living according to the flesh?
- Read Romans 8:9-11, what are the benefits of living according to the Spirit?
- What are some challenges that you face in living according to the Spirit?

## Bullpen:

Good quote about **verse 10**:

*Paul is teaching that the believer, although still bound to an earthly, mortal body, has residing within him or her the Spirit, the power of new spiritual life, which conveys both that “life,” in the sense of deliverance from condemnation enjoyed now and the future resurrection life that will bring transformation to the body itself.*

*All this takes place “because of righteousness,” this “righteousness” being that “imputed righteousness” which leads to life.<sup>9</sup>*

**Quote: Augustine:** *The law was given that grace might be sought, grace was given that the law might be fulfilled.*

## Other:

It also redefines how we view ourselves... We have a new identity that the Spirit gives us...

- We no longer have the label sinner, we now have the label son or daughter!
  - This is the identity that Christ has purchased for us, and that’s been sealed in us through the power of the **Holy Spirit!**

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<sup>9</sup> Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, 492.

**Which means that** you’re not defined by your sin...

- You’re defined by Jesus...
- We live in a world that’s constantly trying to tell you who you are or who you should be, a world that labels people based on their mistakes or they're
- Easy to feel like you’re a nobody...
- Jesus says you are mine!
  - You wear my name, you are a son or a daughter of the King!
- Listen, in the midst of your sin and in the midst of your shame, Jesus offers you something incredible- an identity that’s rooted in the God who made you!!

For some of you, you’ve forgotten the depths of what Christ has purchased for you!

- You don’t see the everyday implications
- Mundane Christian life? You’ve forgotten the depths of the work of Christ!

## Outtakes:

*There’s no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus because of the finished work of **Jesus**, the **Spirit** has set you free from that which held you captive, your sin...*

- **IOW:** *The Spirit’s liberating work takes place only within the situation created by Christ.<sup>10</sup>*

**You could say it like this:**

- *Now my debt is paid  
It is paid in full  
By the precious blood*

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<sup>10</sup> Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, 477.

*That my Jesus spilled  
Now the curse of sin  
Has no hold on me  
Whom the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed... Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation!!*