

## Romans 8

1. Briefly, what is this struggle that all Christians face as outlined in chapters 1-7?

Why would this struggle make people feel condemned?

How would this interfere with your serving Christ?

2. In verse 1, according to Paul, why is there **NOW** no condemnation for those who are in Christ?

Why did Paul include the word "now" in this verse?

When Paul says that there is now no condemnation for those in Christ, is he saying that we can do what we want? Please explain.

3. In verse 2, we see that one of the powerful ministries of the Holy Spirit is to set us free from sin and death. How has this freedom impacted your life? In other words, what have you done with this freedom?

How does this free us from condemnation?

4. Summarize verses 3 and 4.

What does it mean to you that Christ was sent "in the likeness" of a sinful man?

How did Jesus take away our condemnation?

It is important for us to understand that God could not do away with His law or ignore it. Knowing our weakness, God chose the only way to fulfill the requirement of the law without condemning us. What does this reveal about God's nature?

5. What two groups are mentioned in verse 5?

What characterizes each group?

What does the sinful nature desire?

What evidence of this do you see in the world around us?

What does the Holy Spirit desire?

6. In verse 6 & 7, Paul goes into more detail about these two groups. What else does Paul say about the mind of a sinful man?

Why is it impossible for the mind of a sinful to please God?

7. Does having a mind controlled by the Spirit mean we will never sin? Please explain.

What does it mean to you to have your mind set on the things of the Spirit?

8. Notice in these verses that Paul does not say that the mind of a sinful man **leads** to death or the mind controlled by the Spirit **leads** to life and peace. Instead, what does Paul say?

What does this mean to you?

9. What does verse 7 say about the sinful mind?

What does it mean to you for someone to be hostile to God?

Can you think of any examples where this type of hostility is visible? If so, please explain.

10. What does it mean to you to please God?

In what ways can a husband please his wife or a wife please her husband?

In what ways can we please God?

Why can those who are controlled by the sinful nature or by the flesh NOT please God?

Who or what enables us to be able to please God?

11. Verse 9 can be read as a word of encouragement and as a reminder. Please explain.

Paul is very clear in this verse; we are either controlled by the flesh or by the Spirit. How can we tell the difference?

We are controlled by the Spirit if what is true?

What does it mean to you to have the Spirit of God living in you?

In the last part of this verse, what does Paul say about those who do not have the Spirit?

If you walked into most churches today and made the statement, "If you do not have the Spirit of Christ living in you, then you are not a Christian," what do you believe would be the reaction?

What is the evidence of a life that is controlled by the Spirit?

12. How would you explain verse 10 to someone who was new to the church or who was just interested in knowing more?
13. In verse 11, what is the relationship between God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in this verse?
19. What does it mean to you to be obligated?

According to verse 13, if we have the Spirit living in us, what will we do?

20. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit of God?

What is a Godly decision and how can we make Godly decisions?

If God's children are led by the Spirit, then how do you explain the unwise decisions we sometimes make?

21. How can we be led by the Spirit in a world that seeks to remove the Spirit from life?
22. Verse 15 uses the word "Abba" to refer to God. What can you learn about this word?
23. What does Deu. 17:6 say about witnesses? In verse 16, who are the witnesses to our being God's children?

24. What does verse 17 mean to you personally?

What "condition" does Paul place on our being co-heirs with Jesus?

What do we stand to inherit as God's children? (See Gal. 3:26 and 4:7; Eph. 1:14)

25. What does it mean to you that we have been adopted into God's family?

According to Roman law, a father's rule over his children was absolute. If he was disappointed in his natural sons' skill, character, or any other attribute, he would search diligently for a boy available for adoption who demonstrated the qualities he desired. If the boy proved himself worthy, the father would take the necessary legal steps for adoption. At the death of the father, a favored adopted son would sometimes inherit the father's title, the major part of the estate, and would be the primary progenitor of the family name. Because of its obvious great importance, the process of Roman adoption involved several carefully prescribed legal procedures. The first step totally severed the boy's legal and social relationship to his natural family and the second step placed him permanently into his new family. In addition to that, all of his previous debts and other obligations were eradicated, as if they had never existed. For the transaction to become legally binding, it also required the presence of seven reputable witnesses, who could testify if necessary, to any challenge of the adoption. How does this description help us understand this verse about "sonship?"

Had you been a Jew reading Paul's letter, how might you have reacted to this declaration that Gentiles have been adopted into God's family and were equal heirs with the Jews?

26. According to verse 18, what helps Paul with his present suffering?

27. Beginning in verse 19, Paul tells us that we are not the only ones waiting in expectation. Paul tells us that creation waits with eager expectation because it, too, is suffering. What words does Paul use in verses 19-22 to illustrate the sufferings of creation?

In what ways can we still witness the suffering of creation?

28. Who else is "groaning" with the pains of childbirth in verse 23?

How does 2 Cor. 1:21-22 relate to this verse?

29. Verse 25 is an important verse. What does it mean to you? How have you seen this displayed in your life?

How does the Spirit help us in our weakness?

This verse is often used to explain "speaking in tongues." How do you feel about that?

What is intercessory prayer?

30. Verse 28 is one of the most oft quoted verses. Why?

How can this verse be misused?

What does it mean?