



**The Spirit of Life
Part 1
No Condemnation
Romans 8:1-4**

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Romans 8:1–13

“Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in



accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.** So then, brothers and sisters, **we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**” (NASB 2020)

Wow! “Verse 1 is not only the theme of Romans 8. It is the theme of the entire Word of God, which is only another way of saying that it is the gospel. Indeed, it is the gospel’s very heart.” (Boice 1991-, 789)

Welcome to Romans 8. Many consider this chapter to be the greatest chapter in the greatest book of the entire Bible. I will not go that far, but what we do learn here in this chapter is a comprehensive picture of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. And upper most in this chapter, the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Jesus made promises in John that we would indeed receive the Holy Spirit when we come to Him. He described what that meant in detail, but now, as believers, we want to know the practical, and that is where we have now arrived.

But even though we see the Holy Spirit a lot in this chapter, it is more about what He does than who He is. N. T. Wright talked about this when he stated “The early Christians might have said of the spirit what we have said often enough of a worldview: it isn’t what you look at, it’s what you look through. The spirit was not, for Paul and his contemporaries, a ‘doctrine’ or ‘dogma’ to be discussed, but the breath of life which put them in a position to discuss everything else—and, more to the point, to worship, pray, love and work.” (Wright 2013, 710)

And that is indeed what we are learning here in chapter 8. This chapter begins with “no condemnation” and ends with “no separation.” The intent is for all of us who follow Jesus Christ to absolutely know that in Christ, we are assured of everything promised to us in the word, is true and will indeed not only impact life today but we are assured of life with Him forever.

As we approach this chapter, we anticipate that once we are done studying it, we will not only be sure of our salvation but will know that is settled and secure.

Let’s talk about the Spirit of life here at the beginning of Romans 8.

Romans 8:1

“Therefore there is now **no condemnation** at all for those who are **in Christ Jesus.**” (NASB 2020)

We discussed the reason for why the therefore is there for last time. Paul is taking what he has been discussing in the two previous chapters and pointing us back to Romans 5:12-21 where he told us that Jesus Christ has secured eternal life for all who belong to Him. As the latter part of Romans 5:21 tells us, “...so also grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (NASB 2020)

Here is a simple truth that Satan wants all of us to forget.



When we sin, and we all do still do that unfortunately, Satan piles on and then hits the condemnation button. I have had folks tell me that “there is no way Jesus will ever forgive me for what I did.” When I hear that, it is from someone who gave their life to Jesus, they failed, and they believe there is no longer any forgiveness for them. Satan would lie as do some folks into religion as well.

There are way too many in the church today who are unwilling to forgive when someone who has wronged us or others repents and returns to the Lord. I want to talk a bit about this, but first why we should not feel condemned when we sin.

Welcome to the Christian’s bar of soap.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)

Calvary Chapel has a distinctive position on the subject of God’s grace. Without the grace of God, none of us would have a chance. We need the grace of God in our lives. We need it daily. We experience it, and we’re saved by it personally. But we also stand in grace. We believe in the love and grace that seeks to restore the fallen. (Smith 2000, Kindle Location 487)

First comes the decision that I will believe God’s word over Satan’s lies, so in prayer, I confess to the Lord what it is I did, I confess my sin. He loves you and me so much, that since that sin is indeed one that He died for, He died for all of our sin past present and future, He forgives us. That means we are back into relationship with Him. Satan is left holding the condemnation bag, but Jesus tells us here in Romans 8:1, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

De-stress everyone, Jesus has it covered for us with His blood.

Paul wants us to be very clear that absolutely nothing—past, present or future—will cause the person who is united by faith to Jesus to suffer God’s condemnation. The Christian will not be condemned in the present judgement where God backs away and leaves people to live their own foolish lives without him, nor the final judgement which brings ultimate ruin. (Secombe 2013, 134)

Titus 2:11–12

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,” (ESV)

Here is the thing though, the condemnation you think you are going through because of sin, is actually discipline from the Lord. He does indeed discipline us when we sin.

Hebrews 12:7–8

“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.” (ESV)

But what happens if I persist in my sin? I hate to say it but some do indeed do so. Again, sitting right there is 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1, but I have interviewed numerous hard-headed folks over the years.

2 Timothy 2:19

“But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”” (ESV)



In short, when a believer falls into sin he is disciplined, and if he persists, God may even take his physical life so as to save His Name from further dishonor. (Geisler 2004, 282)

Paul had dealt with someone in Corinth who had not just turned away from the Lord to sin, but it was seriously severe sin. Was this person still saved? Yes. To keep it short, this was a follower of Jesus who was in an illicit sexual relationship with his step-mother. Paul said this to the fellowship there.

1 Corinthians 5:5

“you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.” (ESV)

We are talking severe discipline here. He was also to be church-ed as well. Yes, feelings of guilt, but note, the goal was to achieve repentance.

And that did indeed take place and the church in Corinth was no different than the church in the United States. God may forgive you, but we won't. Once again, we forget what God's word teaches and instead opt for religious answers and solutions to control sin in our midst. Once again, it is by grace we are saved, why do we then insist on not giving those who repent, grace. Paul reminded the church in Corinth about this.

2 Corinthians 2:6–11

“For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” (ESV)

Pastor Chuck reminds us of what ministry here should look like. **“Calvary Chapel seeks to minister to hurting people—to see them restored, back on their feet, functioning again.** John tells us that the Law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. If I am to be a minister of Jesus Christ, then I must be ministering grace. As we look at churches and as we look at ministry, we see many who are principally ministers of Moses. They are very harsh and legalistic. The Law has been broken, and they will tell you exactly what the Law says. And yet we find Jesus saying, “Whoever is without sin cast the first stone ... neither do I condemn thee.” It's been our joy and privilege to be able to restore many who were condemned by the Law. I do believe that before restoration, there must be true repentance. I believe that the Law was intended as a schoolmaster to bring people to Jesus Christ. Those who have not come and repented need the Law, thus there is a place for the Law. It is holy, righteous, and good, if used lawfully. But I think sometimes we go beyond and want to exact the penalties of the Law after there has been repentance. We aren't willing to restore. Jesus stood for grace and truth. We should always seek restoration, but let us not forget that repentance is necessary. (Smith 2000, Kindle Location 562)

Romans 8:1

“Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (NASB 2020)

Remember what we have just looked at in Romans 7, how that is not only descriptive of the one before Christ, but could also be descriptive of the one who has fallen into sin and needs to return. Did Paul tell us that the believer who fell into this lost their salvation? He did not. The reason is right here. But just prior to no condemnation we see the word “now.” That word is so important, but we tend to gloss over it. Now means now that there has been realm change, now that you are no longer living in the flesh, now that the Holy Spirit is in you, now that Christ has given you new life. Now.



The “now” alludes to the new era of salvation history inaugurated by Christ’s death and resurrection (see also 3:21; 5:9; 6:19, 22; 7:6). “For those who are in Christ Jesus,” this era is marked by the wonderful announcement that “there is no condemnation.” (Moo 2018, 495)

Remember when we discussed condemnation being a legal term tied to judgment, for the one in Jesus, no longer applicable. The term does not apply.

Why is that? Because Jesus Christ has paid the bill in full for all of us with His work on the cross. Tetelestai, paid in full. The penalty of sin, and that was what we all were most definitively before Christ, sinners, those who commit sin because it is our nature to do so. We have now experienced the one thing we could never do for ourselves, but which Christ has done for us. Sin’s power over us, if we are in Christ, has been broken. We have been delivered from the penalty and the eternity that went along with that penalty and now we are of a new realm, that of the Spirit and looking at life with Christ for all eternity instead of being separated from Him for the same period of time.

No condemnation tells us that the state of lostness we once had, the estrangement from God we once had, the empty life we once had is now gone. “Those “in Christ Jesus” are removed from this state—and removed forever from it, as the emphatic “no” indicates. No more will condemnation of any kind be a threat (see also 8:34). How can this happen for those “in Christ”? Because those in Christ experience the benefits of Christ’s death “for us”: “He was for us in the place of condemnation; we are in him where all condemnation has spent its force” (see 2 Cor. 5:21).” (Moo 2018, 496)

Romans 8:1–2

“Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**” (NASB 2020)

We are in Christ now if we have believed. What that means is we have experienced realm change for real. What has happened to us? “Salvation begins with justification and regeneration—the new birth—resulting in eternal life. From the outset of one’s personal salvation, the believer enters into a right relationship with God and is loosed from the bondage to sin and given liberty to fulfill the will of God. From the moment salvation is experienced, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer. Through sanctification and cleansing of the heart and mind, the will of the believer is brought into full harmony with the will of God. In the subsequent experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit empowers the believer to respond more fruitfully to the call of God to service and discipleship. The salvation of the believer will reach its final fulfillment in the bodily resurrection. Therefore the gift of salvation applies to the whole life of the believer.” (Arrington 1993, 160-161)

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if anyone is **in Christ, this person is a new creation**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (NASB 2020)

The word translated “new” in this verse is the word *kainos*, which means “something just made which is unlike anything else in existence.” In Christ, we are made an entirely new creation, just as God created the heavens and the earth originally—He made them out of nothing, and so He does with us. He does not merely clean up our old selves; He makes an entirely new self. (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

Being in Christ Jesus is a really big deal, and it opens other things we spend our lives learning about. For example, you and I as followers of Jesus, we are now also sharing His divine nature.



2 Peter 1:4

“Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.” (NASB 2020)

When we understand what that truly means, it takes our breath away. We, as believers of Jesus Christ, as members of His family due to what He did on the cross for us, due totally to the grace of God are currently sharers with Christ of the divine nature. Here is another headline for you, some day, and very soon in my opinion thanks to the pending pretribulation rapture of the the church, we will be like Him. The Complete Jewish Bible translates 1 John 3:2 the following way.

1 John 3:2

“Dear friends, we are God’s children now; and it has not yet been made clear what we will become. **We do know that when he appears, we will be like him; because we will see him as he really is.**” (CJB)

Sanctification right now gets us moving the right direction.

We are all being sanctified every single day since we came to Christ. We are becoming Holy and being made to be more like Christ. Sanctification is Christ in us by the Holy Spirit making us holy. Sanctification is a progressive change in the character of the person justified—making the believer become a partaker of God’s holy nature. Thus, God’s salvation of believers includes a continual process of sanctification. A believer’s walk is a path of continual growth—and a process that brings us closer to God. (Carpenter and Comfort 2000, 385)

We are being made like Him right now. How do we get ready for the full deal when the rapture takes place?

- Spend time with Jesus right now.
- Read His guidebook for how to do life – the Bible.
- Talk to Him about how life is going for you and let Him change you.
- Seriously, bring everything to Him in prayer, the good and the bad.

Since we spend time with Him right now, in preparation for being like Him at a future date, that drives us to ensure we act per His moral instructions in His word (1 John 3:3). We purify ourselves and renew our minds daily (Romans 12:2).

The idea of being like Christ, sharing in His divine nature, is a term we call theosis. I like how Dr. Heiser puts it on this topic.

“The concept of “theosis” has strong biblical roots, and extends from the divine council worldview, specifically the aspect of the original Edenic goal of having humans join the divine family. In the beginning, God made humans to image him (Genesis 1:26), to be like him, to dwell with him. He made us like his heavenly imagers and came to earth to unite his families, elevating humanity to share in divine life in a new world (Genesis 2:8).

The message of “theosis” is that, in Christ, we are being transformed into his likeness—the perfect imager of God. The Spirit—who...“is but isn’t” Jesus—conforms us to Jesus’ own image. Scripture is clear that immortality as a divinized human is the destiny of the believer, and that our present lives in Christ are a process of becoming what we are.” (Heiser 2015, 319-320)



Romans 8:2

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.” (NASB 2020)

Paul of course, continues and gives another reason why there is no condemnation. It has to do with an invasion that has already taken place, it has to do with freedom. Yep, Jesus Christ came to this planet as a man and we who are His followers, having believed, because what He achieved on the cross, the atonement, has set us free. Eternal life is eternal. In Christ, our condemnation is permanently irrevocably gone forever. Because you and I, if we believe in Christ and accepted Him as Savior, we are now free forever from the law of sin and death.

That the future has invaded the present, the age to come has intruded into the present evil age. Thus there is no condemnation for those in Christ because the future deliverance from death has invaded the present world. This does not mean that physical death no longer obtains for believers, nor does it mean that they are completely free from sin now; they still face death and yet they have already conquered it by virtue of being in Christ. Via union with Christ Jesus they have already died with Christ and been raised with him, and thus sin and death no longer have dominion over believers. (Schreiner 1998, 398)

It was the work of the Holy Spirit who brought us to Christ. And what we realize now, even though the term is “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,” it isn’t law at all, it is freedom. Moule comments here that “By a strange, pregnant paradox, so we take it, the Gospel—the message which carries with it acceptance, and also holiness, by faith—is here called a “law.” For while it is free grace to us it is also immovable ordinance with God. The amnesty is His edict. It is by heavenly statute that sinners, believing, possess the Holy Spirit in possessing Christ. And here, with a sublime abruptness and directness, that great gift of the Covenant, the Spirit, for which the Covenant gift of Justification was given, is put forward as the Covenant’s characteristic and crown. (Moule 1975, 210)

This is not law, not like Paul was talking about earlier in Romans 7. The law being referred to here is that regulation of our life that takes place when the Holy Spirit moves inside at the moment we believe. As Peter put it on Pentecost, the prophecy of Joel 2 being fulfilled with the inception of the new covenant.

Joel 2:28–29

“After all of this I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your elderly will have prophetic dreams; your young men will see visions. Even on male and female servants I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” (NET 2nd ed.)

The Holy Spirit indwelling followers of Jesus is indeed a sign of the new covenant in effect. It is the Spirit who sets us free doing His ministry.

2 Corinthians 3:17

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Verse 2 gives us the full impact of the realm transfer that took place when we believed.

No condemnation for all in Christ now also guided by the Spirit giving us life and set us free from the old life we used to be enslaved to.

Romans 8:3

“For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, **God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin**, He condemned sin in the flesh,” (NASB 2020)



The Law did not save, It did not stop sin. It couldn't even supply the power to prevent the one who does not want to sin from doing so. Paul has just seriously covered that for us in Romans 7.

To conquer sin, much more was required. God could not write it off and let bygones be bygones. That is counter to His attributes of justice and holiness. Sin came in via an invasion from Lucifer in the Garden, it would take another invasion to reverse the problem.

God had to do something more radical to eradicate it. Since the flesh is the field of battle which sin has occupied and where it has set up headquarters, God must send his Son (John 3:16; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 4:9) in the likeness of sinful flesh to vanquish the invader. (Garland 2021, 260)

Thus, the need for the incarnation.

John 1:14

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (NASB 2020)

The incarnation—that stupendous enterprise of God—comprehends the advent of the Second Person of the Godhead into the human family and with a view to an everlasting participation therein. (Chafer 1993, 47)

The Incarnation resulted in Christ's taking the form of a servant, and that example is held up to believers in several places in the New Testament: Philippians 2; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6, to name but a few. (Ryrie 2010, 120)

The question though, why the incarnation, what reasons did the Father have to achieve through this. Dr. Fruchtenbaum tells us there are twelve reasons.

1. To save sinners, and all that is involved in that statement (John 3:13-21).
2. To reveal God to man and revealing the Father to us (John 1:18).
3. To provide those who believe, an example of how to do life (1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6)
4. To provide a perfect sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:1-10)
5. To destroy the works of the devil (Hebrews 2:14).
6. So that Jesus could be our merciful High Priest (Hebrews 5:1-10).
7. To fulfill the Davidic Covenant as prophesied by Nathan (2 Samuel 7:11-17).
8. To confirm the promises of God (Romans 15:8-9).
9. To provide for the exaltation of Jesus the Messiah (Philippians 2:9-11)
10. To restore dominion over the planet back to men (Hebrews 2:5-9).
11. To bring many sons and daughters to glory (Hebrews 2:10-11).
12. To deliver believers from the fear of death (Hebrews 2:15). This, too, was accomplished through the Incarnation. (Fruchtenbaum 1983)

In His flesh, just prior to the cross, Jesus asked the Father, three times if there was any other way and God did not answer that prayer (Matthew 26:44). There was no other way. Jesus was incarnated in the likeness of human flesh, yet He did not have the sin nature we all have.

He was also sent, literally "concerning or for sin" (peri harmartias). In other words He came to do something about sin. What He did was to condemn it; by His death on the cross, He condemned sin (katekrinen, "passed a judicial sentence on it"; cf. katakrima, "punishment," Rom. 8:1) so that those in Christ are not condemned. (Witmer 1985, 469)

The condemnation that we have been freed from, what we deserved, Jesus, as our sin bearer, took on.



In executing the full sentence of condemnation against sin, God effectively removed sin's ability to dictate terms for those who are "in Christ" (v. 2). (Moo 2018, 504)

Romans 8:3–4

"For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (NASB 2020)

The purpose behind God condemning sin in the flesh is simple, we all need a heart change. This shows up in the Old Testament several times. The need for the people to circumcise their hearts and God saying He would do that for the people in the last days.

Ezekiel 36:26–27

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules." (ESV)

That began on Pentecost.

The only way you and I can even possibly come close to doing what God wants us to do is solely because of the Holy Spirit who I sin each believer. In Christ, because He promised to send the Holy Spirit, and did so on Pentecost, we now have His law on our hearts. Paul nowhere says here that we fulfill the law's righteous requirement, but that we are now enabled and due to the Holy Spirit in us, able to walk in His statutes and follow His ordinances. This is only possible because of the grace of God because now we walk by the Spirit.

Before we came to know Christ we were continually defeated by sin. When we came to know him and to receive the indwelling Holy Spirit we were able to attain a standard we could never reach in our own strength. (Morris 1988, 304)

Now, as a believer, we walk by the Spirit.

Are you walking by the Spirit? You can be.

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)



ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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