

No Condemnation

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 7:25-8:4.
- B. There is a struggle for the believer who tries to be obedient through the law.
- C. This is legalism.
- D. The struggle is that the believer does what he does not want to do.
- E. This struggle can end.

II. Romans 8 shows the way out—there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus.

- A. There is a struggle between the flesh and the spirit. (Galatians 5)
 - 1. The human spirit agrees with God's law.
 - 2. The flesh prevents it from obeying God.
- B. The flesh is broken through a new view of oneself.
 - 1. Many Christians resent that God does not remove the struggle of the flesh.
 - 2. Only a new self-image will free us.
- C. There is no condemnation because one is "in Christ."
 - 1. If the Spirit of God is in you, God will never leave you.
 - 2. God is not angry when we struggle—He wants to help us.
 - 3. God disciplines us when we deliberately sin and like it though. (Romans 6)
- D. One is not condemned because through Christ the law of the Spirit of life sets one free from the law of sin and death.
 - 1. The believer's heart is right—he has a desire to do what is good.
 - 2. Sin has deceived us and overpowers us.
 - 3. The provision God has made for failure is there for us in Christ.
- E. The law of the Spirit of life is there for us in Christ Jesus.
 - 1. This sets us free from the law of sin and death.

2. You have been cut from the law of sin and death.
3. A new stronger law comes in when we believe Jesus Christ.

F. The law only stirs up the power of sin because of the weakness of the flesh. (I Corinthians 15)

1. Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh.
2. Jesus has tied Christians to Himself as a risen and ascended Lord.
3. As a gift of God we are righteous with the very righteousness of God.
4. We must only believe what God has done about our evil and trust Him for it.

G. This reality becomes real to us when we live according to the Spirit instead of the sinful nature.

1. We will change the way we act when we believe.
2. God has made us different, and when we believe it we will automatically change how we act.

Application questions:

1. What is legalism and how are religious people particularly affected by it?

2. How is receiving a new identity in Christ a solution to legalism? How does one obtain this new identity?

3. Does our new identity remove any form of discipline for deliberate sin in our lives? Explain.
