

Chapter 8

Verse 1- *Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Therefore- Paul connects the ideas of this chapter to the last. We have been freed from the power of our flesh!

condemnation- *kata* (according to) *krino* (judgement). We have been freed from the judgment of God if we are in Christ Jesus.

Chapter 8


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

Why is there no condemnation for people in Christ Jesus? Paul answers this important question immediately.

For- This is the answer. One law set us free from another law. The Law of Moses was given by God, and it reflects His character- perfect, pure, and holy. It demands that are the same (We cannot fulfill the Law!) However, the law of Christ fulfilled every aspect of the Law. If we are in Christ, it sets us free from the expectations of the Law.


Breaking the Power

Romans 8:2-4



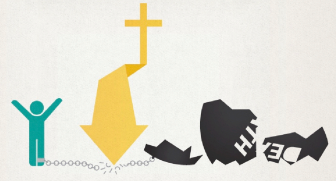
Breaking the Power

Romans 8:2-4



Breaking the Power

Romans 8:2-4



Runge

Chapter 8

Verse 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,*

Paul tells his readers that the Law was limited. Even though it could present the problem of our separation from God, it could not solve it.

in the likeness of sinful flesh- Although Jesus took on flesh, it was not sinful flesh. He did not have a sin nature as we do.

- Expiation- the removal of sin or guilt
- Propitiation- the appeasement of God's anger

Chapter 8

Verse 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,*

condemned sin in the flesh- Jesus could condemn sin while He was the God-man because he didn't have a sin nature and did not commit sin.

Hebrews 4:15- *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin.*

Chapter 8

Verse 4- *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.*

The perfect demands of God's law are fulfilled by God's perfect Son. This act of selfless love was made for all people but only applies to those who accept His action made for us. His personal death propitiates and expiates our personal sin. Those who live for Him live by His power (Spirit) now, not our own.

Chapter 8

Verse 5- *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.*

Paul explains the difference between the flesh and the Spirit.

"The flesh" refers to the wants and needs driven by the physical body. Those outside of Christ focus all attention and energy on satisfying their own wants and needs. The end of this focus is immediate separation from God (spiritual death). "The flesh" is not neutral to God. It is enemies with God, hostile to Him, refusing to obey Him.

Chapter 8

Verse 5-8

Paul contrasts the saved and the lost (not the carnal and the spirit-filled) in four different ways:

- Verse 5 Either in the flesh or in the Spirit
- Verse 6 Either dead or alive
- Verse 7 Either at war with God or at peace with God
- Verse 8 Either pleasing self or pleasing God

Chapter 8

Verse 5- *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.*

Paul explains the difference between the flesh and the Spirit.

“The Spirit” refers to those who focus on the things of God and the way He wants us to live according to the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Chapter 8

Verse 6- *For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,*

Paul is not saying that having a mind set on the flesh leads to death- it is death. There is no middle ground. There is no neutrality when it comes to God- we are dead and following the flesh or alive in the Spirit and following God, although imperfectly in our humanity.

It is an impossibility to fulfill the Law of God in our flesh. But a life following the Spirit leads to a fulfilled life on earth and eternal life in heaven- and the peace of God.

Chapter 8

Verse 7- *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,*

hostile toward God- echthra- “alienation.” Again, the mind of flesh is not neutral towards God- it hates God because it is not able to do anything else.

Often, people do the right thing for the wrong reason or for the purpose of “balancing the scales” or “paying God His fee.”

There is no way for us to be in right relationship with God apart from the atonement of His Son.

Chapter 8

Verse 8- *and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

God loves the world and wants every person to be saved (John 3:16), and He has expressed that love by sending His Son to make it possible for all who believe to be included in His family.

Without belief and repentance, we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). His holiness cannot allow for those who reject Him and His Son (John 3:18) to be part of this salvation (John 14:6)

Chapter 8

Verse 9- *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.*

A follower of Christ can sin (1 John 1:9-10), but it's not his normal pattern of behavior (1 John 3:4-6). Non-Christians live by the flesh, serving themselves.

We have a fleshly body, and sometimes we act according to our flesh, but we are alive in the Spirit. Paul tells his readers that it is impossible to be a Christian if the Spirit of God doesn't dwell in us.

Chapter 8

Verse 10- *If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

Because of the curse of sin (Adam and Eve), everyone is dead spiritually and eventually dies physically. But Christians are alive spiritually because of the imputed righteousness given to them by God, through the work of the Son, in the act of the indwelling Spirit.

Chapter 8

Verse 11- *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.*

If- This can also be translated as “since.” Whatever happened to Jesus will happen to us. If He died, we have to die (to our old nature). If He was resurrected (raised from the dead), our death to our old nature will be replaced with our new life in the Spirit. If He became alive, we also will become alive (to our new nature).

Jesus was the first fruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

Chapter 8

Verse 12- *So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—*

obligation-opheiletai (debtor) Believers are no longer debtors to their flesh (corrupt human nature). The flesh no longer has any claim on us because we are living by a new standard.

Chapter 8

Verse 13- *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.*

Paul contrasts the flesh and the Spirit throughout this chapter. If a person lives according to the flesh, they are already spiritually dead and will eventually die physically.

In contrast, those walking according to the Spirit will have increasingly greater success in defeating the “deeds of the body” through the Spirit’s power (Not allowing the squatters entrance into our home) which is evidence of spiritual life. This is in the present tense.

Chapter 8

Verse 14- *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God.*

Being continually (present tense) led by the Spirit is evidence of our being a child of God.

There is a connection between the last verse and this verse. Those who are “*putting to death the deeds of the body*” are those who are the children of God.

Chapter 8

Verse 15- *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”*

Earlier, Paul contrasted our being slaves to sin and our being “slaves to righteousness” (6:18) and being “slaves to God” (6:22).

Slaves to sin fear their master. But God has changed our legal relationship to Him as more than slaves but adopted sons and daughters. The word “Abba” is an Aramaic word for “daddy.” Adoption is a legal standing severing any old relationship as a new relationship with a father is created.

Chapter 8

Verse 16- *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*

Prayer is the way we talk to God, and the Holy Spirit is one of the major ways God speaks to us. It is amazing that we have access to Him, and He has access to us through His Holy Spirit, through the Bible, prayer, and circumstances (Blackaby), and in anyway He sees fit.

We know we are in God's family because God's Spirit tells us so.

Chapter 8

Verse 17- *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

If (since) we are adopted, we are also heirs, those who receive something based on another's death. The Father cannot die, so this speaks to more of the relationship between Him and us, although we are fellow heirs with Jesus.

If (since) we suffer on behalf of our relationship, we are sure to experience ultimate salvation as we are glorified by Him.

Chapter 8

Verse 18- *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

The time in which Paul wrote was very difficult for believers, and he contrasted their present sufferings (sometimes which led to martyrdom) with the wonderful realities of heaven. The glory that awaits us is not something that God will create in the future. It exists now!

This glory will be revealed to us, but also in us and through us as God sanctifies us.

Chapter 8

Verse 19- *For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God.*

The relationship of man with the created universe has been evident since the fall in Genesis 3. Not only did Adam and Eve fall, but the whole universe was affected.

eagerly awaiting- *apo* (from) + *kara* (the head) + *dokeo* (think). The universe is eagerly waiting for us to receive our final inheritance because it will be remade too (Revelation 21).

Chapter 8

Verse 20- *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope*

The universe that God created fell when Adam and Eve sinned.

futility- mataiotēti- warped, perverse, sickly, weak, or false. This is not how God created the universe (or us) to live in a fallen state. When He created the universe, He stated that everything “was good,” but it became warped (as we did) after the Fall.

Next week...

Chapter 8b:

“Our Victory in Christ”

