

Romans 8:1–4

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

How We Know We Are Not Condemned

Romans 8:2-4

We must remember two principles here in our text.

First, we must not forget the context in the Book of Romans. We must not be so enamored with the trees that we forget the forest in which they live.

Second, do not forget the testimony of the rest of the New Testament. The Bible insists the war against sin is a part of the believer's life until He takes us home. Remember **Hebrews 12:3-4** *"For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin."*

The Apostle Paul outlined his evidence by citing our freedom in Christ and the price God paid to give us this no condemnation in Christ.

I. We Have the Spirit and the Law of Life (v. 2)

II. We Have No Condemnation Because Jesus Was Condemned (v. 3-4)

I. We Have the Spirit and the Law of Life (v. 2)

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, FOR the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1-2)

A. How do we practically know we are not condemned? In **verse 2** the Apostle Paul answered this question. We know that there is no condemnation for us because ***"the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the Law of sin and death."***

B. Paul talked about two laws here, the law of life in Christ, and the law of sin and death. We will start with the second law. We read in **Romans 7:20-21**. ***“Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”*** This law is not the Law of Moses. Paul uses “law” here to describe a principle which can compel us to obey. The war in our members is a war of compelling principles. When our sin abounds, the result is death. So, this is “the law of sin and death.”

C. The first law Paul mentioned was the law which freed us from the law of sin and death. Paul called it ***“the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.”*** This law is a person, the Holy Spirit of God, whom we have because we are in Christ.

1. We need to recognize when the Spirit of God came to live in us and gave us life and victory over sin, it does not mean we will never fight sin again.

2. In **Romans 6:16** the Apostle laid out the principle. ***“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”*** We are slaves of the one we obey. What are our choices? We are either free from righteousness or we are free from sin. Now we learn what liberty or freedom is in Paul’s mind, **Romans 6:22**. ***“But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”*** Freedom means an ability to serve God and righteousness.

D. We can illustrate this with an airplane. The law of Gravity did not cease to have influence upon the plane. The law of aerodynamics has superseded the Law of Gravity. We know we are not under condemnation because in Christ we cannot live in sin continually, but have more and more victory over sin.

II. We Have No Condemnation Because Jesus Was Condemned (v. 3-4)

“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, [in order] that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

A. This second “for” indicates this is a second reason we know there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We know this because “what the Law could not do. . . God did!”

B. There are two vital parts to this phrase. First, what could the law not do because it was weak in the flesh? Remember Paul spent the bulk of the last chapter convincing us God’s Law is spiritual, good, and proper. We are none of these things. In short, sin was not God’s fault, it is ours even after we are forgiven.

1. We learned although the Law is good and perfect, the law could not justify the sinner. **Romans 3:20** *"Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."* The Pharisees taught a right standing before God came through obeying the Law. However, the fact is the Law never was designed to save us. The Law was the righteous standard which revealed sin and brought condemnation.

2. Not only was the Law unable to make us right before God, the law also could not sanctify justified believers. It is powerless to transform us; to make us like the One who saved us by His grace.

C. The second principle is the most important. "What the law could not do, God did." What did our God do? **"God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh."** God sent His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh. The first step in God doing for us what the Law could not do was sending His own Son into the world. So, Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh. Jesus became a real human being. Yet, He did not possess sinful flesh. He did not have a sin nature.

1. Why did He come? The text says, "on account of sin." Jesus came to take our place and to bear the wrath of God for our sin. **"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."**

2. Here in one statement we have the climax. God the Father "condemned sin in the flesh." The wrath and condemnation, which should have fallen on each of us, fell on Him. **Galatians 3:13, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')."**

D. God did all of this with a purpose. **"In order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:4.**

Paul blends the two things the Law could not do to emphasize what Christ did.

First, by faith Christ justified us. We fulfilled the righteous demands of the Law in our justification.

Second, He made it possible for us to walk in the spirit and not in our flesh. Remember **Galatians 5:16-18. "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."**

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