



STUDY GUIDE

RIGHT WITH GOD 7.12.2015

[set up]

In your walk with Christ, do you have a tendency to feel that your salvation is dependent on how well you have been obedient?

Do you find that you often live life feeling hopeless and condemned? How is it possible to know that, when in Christ, there is “now no condemnation”?

[digging deeper]

Read Romans 8:1-17 aloud as a group. Pay close attention to the work of the Holy Spirit!

Remember that in this section of Romans, Paul is speaking about Life in the Spirit (the Holy Spirit). We have been Justified by faith and Sanctified by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but only if we are in Christ Jesus. If we are united to Jesus by faith in him – our condemnation from our sin is taken away because of Christ’s work on the cross. God acquits us. He counts us as righteous. He does not look upon us any longer as guilty and condemned, but as forgiven and righteous because of Jesus. This means that Christians are not only “counted” righteous in justification, but actually transformed by the Spirit of God more and more into actually righteous, loving, and holy people.

Romans 8:1: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

What is the “Therefore” there for? Here Paul is saying, “In light of all I just said in Romans 1-7, in view of all that I just said – there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” This is the essence of Christianity. That’s the central, foundational message of God to the world. We lay down our lives to communicate to the nations and to our neighborhood: “Therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Celebrate that as a LifeGroup, Hallelujah!

*Romans 8:3 “For God has done what the law, **weakened by the flesh**, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,”*

That is what happens to the Law when it encounters us and our sin. This is the weakness of the law! The weakness of the law is that it was not designed to redeem sinful, rebellious, selfish people like us. “For God has done **what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.**” What the Law could not do - Justify us Sanctify. It was powerless to do both of these things.

How are we Justified and Sanctified through Christ?

“By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,”

If Jesus was sinless why does it say “in the likeness of sinful flesh”?

When Paul uses the word “flesh” he means our fallen nature or sin nature. Read Galatians 5:16-22. What are the desires of the “flesh” that are against the Holy Spirit?

Read Romans 8:7 again.

What is the practical evidence that we have trusted Christ and have the Holy Spirit? Read Galatians 5:22-26. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

Read the second half of Romans 8:6 again. What is the mindset of the Holy Spirit:
_____ & _____

Also Read: John 6:63, 2 Corinthians 3:6, John 4:23-24, Matthew 10:19-20, Luke 12:12, John 14:26, John 16:7-13

Verse 9: You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. This is one of the clearest statements in the New Testament of what a Christian is: "If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him." We do not belong to Christ if we do not have the Spirit of Christ. We are not Christians if we do not have the Holy Spirit, and therefore we are condemned.

As a LifeGroup process the magnitude of this statement, and how it impacts our relationships with unbelievers?

Read John 3:1-8. What does it mean to be "born again"? How does the Holy Spirit work and move in people lives?

Further Study on The Doctrine of Redemption

Regeneration: is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us. This is sometimes called "being born again". (Systematic Theology, Grudem, p.699)

[living it out]

The Law - the Ten Commandments and the other commandments given to the people of Israel - cannot make you *Right with God* and cannot transform you into the kind of righteous and loving persons you want to be. Our sin marred us and separated us from Christ. What wonderful news that because of Jesus we have been made *Right with God* through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Let's live out our lives as people who are now no longer condemned but forgiven and free!

What is a practical thing that every person in your group could do in order to remind himself or herself of these important truths every day for the next 7 days? Challenge your group and yourself to memorize the following verses:

- Romans 8:1 - "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
 - Remind yourself: Why?
- Romans 8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of Life (Holy Spirit) has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

End your time praying for some of the names on your New Life 10|24 prayer list who have yet to receive the Holy Spirit!