

No Condemnation

Rom 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.*

Paul, having presented the doctrine of justification by faith for the believer in chapter 5 where we read, *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Rom 5:1) He has further shown thus far that this justification by faith neither makes sin acceptable nor does it make sin impossible in the life of the believer. This was done in the following manner. In order to refute the charge that he was teaching that sin was acceptable he asked, *"Shall we sin that grace may abound?"* to which he answered in the strongest term, *impossible*. Also showing that we cannot claim sinless perfection he used himself as a prime example in chapter 7 showing that we as Christians do struggle with sin. He summed up problem thus, *"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."* (Rom 7:22,23)

He then asks that all important questions, *"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* (Rom 7:24-25) and having thus proved the fact that we are justified by faith alone. He now continues the subject of justification, and proceeds to instruct the church in the assurance of their salvation. Proclaiming this glorious conclusion, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus"*.

Let us consider this conclusion under these four headings. 1.) **The Fact** – no condemnation 2.) **The Reason** – The law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made us free from the law of sin and death, 3.) **The Means** – God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and condemned sin. 4.) **The Result** – The righteous requirements of the law have been met.

A. The Fact - No condemnation to those who are in Christ

1. Therefore, all the previous arguments have led up to this glorious truth.
 - a. Paul having proved by the previous arguments that God's elect have been justification by faith through the obedience and propitiation of Christ upon the cross.
 - b. He is now able to proclaim that we, as the redeemed of the Lord, are no longer under condemnation.
2. This is what makes the gospel such "good news".
3. For we were as all men by nature under the condemnation of eternal judgment.
 - a. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. – Rom. 3:23
 - b. For the wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23
 - c. We were dead in trespasses and sin and were by nature children of wrath. - Eph 2:1-3
4. The very fact that as believers we still struggle with sin and sin is always worthy of condemnation.
5. Yet the proclamation is crystal clear. – *There is therefore now **NO CONDEMNATION** to those who are in Christ Jesus.*

6. How can this be?

B. The Reason - The law of the Spirit of life in Christ has freed us from the law of sin and death.

1. The reason is this: that Christ hath endured the penalty, and obeyed the precept of the Law in our stead.
2. Jesus has delivered us from the power of darkness. He has delivered us from the law of sin and death.

Col 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

3. No other way to explain it – Jesus did for us what we could not do.
 - a. Notice Paul does not say that there is no reason for condemnation in the believer.
 - b. Nor that there is no ground to condemn us because of our sin.
 - c. Rather that Christ has freed us from condemnation.

C. The Means – 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,*

1. God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh.
2. Not in sinful flesh, but in the likeness of the very flesh that we are made of.

Heb 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

*Heb 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, **that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest** in things pertaining to God, **to make propitiation for the sins of the people.***

3. We sang this morning “that Thou my God shouldst die for me”. This could not have been accomplished except that God had to be manifested in the flesh. “Our Emmanuel”
4. Thus our Lord condemned sin in the flesh.
 - a. That is He made clear and plain to all the sinfulness of sin.
 - b. That sin is worthy of the severest judgment of God. (The wages of sin is death)

Conclusion: The Result. Our Lord met the righteous requirements of the law. – *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.*

The Law demanded perfect obedience. – Jesus knew no sin.

2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Law demands justice, justice demands judgement. – *The Lord laid on Him the sin of us all.*

Thus by this means Jesus met that demand of justice in our place. - *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.*

Therefore it is by this means and this means alone that it can be said, - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.*

For there is not a means of . . . *“salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*

Christ alone!