

Romans 8:1–4

Intro: Sin is so dominating that even after salvation, it influences and overpowers the believer - 7:14-23
XXV. Life in the Spirit - Part 1 - Free from sin and death; Enabled to fulfill the Law

A. No Condemnation—vs 1a

1. Condemnation shows that God is Just

- a. all men are guilty b/c of original sin and are affected by the moral and spiritual depravity it produces - Ro 5:17-18
- b. all men are born with a twisted evil nature - Eph 2:3
- c. all men are guilty of their own sinful acts produced by a depraved nature - Ro 2:6,8

2. Therefore

- a. by definition introduces a result, consequence or conclusion
- b. a reminder, verse and chapter divisions are man-made
- c. he is referring to his concern after his recognition of his condition - 7:25

3. There is now no condemnation

- a. **katakrima** - an adverse sentence (the verdict):--condemnation.
 - i. appears only here and Ro 5:16, 18
 - ii. primary focus is on the penalty rather than the verdict
- b. no - **oudeis** - not even one, none, nobody, nothing
 - i. emphatic negative verb
 - ii. Carries the idea of complete cessation

4. Why?

- a. though important and necessary, not b/c of Jesus' perfect words or perfect life
- b. b/c of His perfect sacrifice in which the penalty has been paid in full

B. Why You're Free - Justification - vs 1b-2

1. to those who are in Christ Jesus,

- a. only for true believers
 - i. those baptized into His death and resurrection - 6:3-5
 - ii. Not simply identification with, but part of the body of Christ - 1Co 12:27; Eph 4:16
- b. justification (the subject of the previous 7 chapters) completely and forever releases believers from sin's bondage and penalty
- c. within justification is the imputation of Christ's righteousness

2. *who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

- a. *not found in the earliest manuscripts, possibly a scribal error from vs 4*
- b. *consider what it is saying, either there is no condemnation b/c of*
 - i. *Christ and His finished work*
 - ii. *or it is dependent on walking according to the Spirit and not the flesh*

3. For - carries the idea of because, leads to the reason that there is no condemnation

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

a. law

- i. Used in the sense of a principle of operation like 3:27; 6:2; 7:21
- ii. Does not refer to the need for obedience
- b. of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus - clear that it is the Holy Spirit - vs 9-11
- c. the Holy Spirit gives power (Ac 1:8) and energizes (Ro 8:11) spiritual life
- d. made me free

- i. *eleuthero* - to liberate, to exempt--deliver, make free.
- ii. Believers, by submitting to a higher divine law that bestows life, can overcome a lower law of sin and death - Ga 2:19

C. How You're Free - Substitution - vs 3

1. a definitive statement of substitutionary atonement
2. For - carries the idea of because, leads to the reason for what was just stated
3. the ability of the law
 - a. the law can
 - i. provoke sin in men - 5:20; 7:8
 - ii. Bring the knowledge of sin - 3:20
 - iii. condemn them for it - 2:12; 6:23
 - b. though the law is holy, righteous, and good, (7:12) it could not
 - i. save them from its penalty - Ga 3:10,21
 - ii. Inability came b/c it was weak through (the sinful corruption of) the flesh,
4. God did - Ac 13:39; Ga 3:13; Heb 10:10,14
 - a. by sending His own Son
 - i. in the likeness of sinful flesh, - Jo 6:51
 - likeness - in the outward appearance - dealing w/ 100% human
 - sinful flesh yet w/o sin - Heb 4:15
 - ii. on account of (as an offering for) sin: - Heb 9:28
 - He had to be fully human and sinless,
 - He became sin for us as a sacrifice for sin - 2 Co 5:21;
 - b. He condemned sin in the flesh,
 - i. the law once condemned the believer
 - ii. now, Christ, the Savior, condemns sin, delivering the believer from sins power and penalty

D. The Result of Freedom - Sanctification - vs 4

1. that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us
 - a. apart from the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, man's effort at righteousness is as filthy rags - Isa 64:6
 - b. salvation brings a new nature, a new spirit, the Holy Spirit - all "in order that" - 2 Co 5:15; 1Th 5:10; 1Pe 4:2
 - c. fulfilling the law - Ro 13:8-9; Ga 5:14; 6:2; Jas 2:8
2. who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
 - a. not an admonition, but a statement of fact
 - b. walk
 - i. *peripateo* - to tread all around, walk at large, to live, deport oneself, follow, go, be occupied with, walk (about).
 - ii. Refers to the habitual way of life
 - c. "to walk according to" - in the realm of - expanded over the next 7 vs
 - i. for believers,
 - the Spirit of God dwells in them
 - they have been baptized into the body of Christ
 - they now live in the realm of the Spirit, not that they are always walking in the Spirit
 - ii. For unbelievers - they walk according to
 - the course of this world,
 - the prince of the power of the air
 - conduct themselves in the lusts of their flesh