

Devotions
Dealing with Sin--part 3
Romans 8

Day One: Freedom from Judgment-No Condemnation (Romans 8:1-4)

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

1. For all of Romans that put sin in front of us like a mirror, for all of Romans that convinced us no one could ever be good enough to be genuinely righteous, for Romans 3 and 5 that declared that we are **declared** righteous, Romans 8:1 stands as the pivotal and definitive statement as to our position before God!!!!

2. Romans 8:1 is one of the most freeing verses in the Bible. What does this verse say to you about your standing in Jesus Christ?

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

2. Contrast the law of the Spirit with the law of sin.

What the law of **sin** could **not** do:

What the law of the **Spirit can** do:

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

3. What does the phrase “in the likeness of sinful flesh...” mean to you?

4. Read verse 1 again, then read verse 4.

⁴ *in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

5. If we are not condemned, how is the requirement of the law fulfilled?

6. How does that **fact** of there being NO condemnation speak to you, personally?

Day Two: Freedom from Defeat-No Obligations (Romans 8:5-17)

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

⁶ *To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

⁷ *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot;*

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

⁹ *But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

¹⁰ *But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness.*

1. Circle the word "flesh." Then put a box around the word "Spirit."

2. "The flesh" is our human nature at work when we are not walking with God.

What are the consequences of living by the "flesh?" What are the benefits of living by the Spirit?

Living by the flesh

Living by the Spirit

4. Note the second sentence of verse 9. When Christ comes into our life at conversion, the Holy Spirit also comes into our hearts.

Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

5. If we have accepted the gift of salvation and the Spirit, what obligation is over for us?

¹⁴ *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

¹⁶ *it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

¹⁷ *and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

6. Describe our relationship with God and with Jesus Christ according to these verses.

Day Three: Freedom From Discouragement-No Needed "Frustration" (Romans 8:18-26)

1. Our fallen nature tells us that making life "work" is our highest purpose and priority. It is a lie that began in the Garden of Eden and extends to every one of us. We try to make life "work" in one of two ways: Either we

(a) Try to make life "work" apart from God, or

(b) Try to make life "work" by *using* God. Call either of these approaches "Point #1" people.

2. You might be asking, "But if our highest purpose and priority isn't to make life "work" like we want, what is our highest purpose and priority?"

We live to find our deepest pleasure and joy in knowing Him and reflecting Him to people!
(Point #2 people)

3. God's most fundamental work is changing us from Point #1 people to Point #2 people!

4. The inevitable consequences of being Point #1 people is discouragement and frustration, or what Paul calls "groaning," the inward angst we all know when life just isn't happening like we want. In today's verses, mark the "underlinings" that resonate with you:

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

²³ *Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

²⁴ *For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?*

²⁵ *But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

²⁶ *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*

5. Suffering in this world is inevitable and needed! Suffering is one of God's choice ways to loosening our heart's commitment to being Point #1 people, and making us Point #2 people! The silver lining of suffering is that it "forces" us to God, **personally** (relationally), not to fix our world but to seek Him as our greatest treasure.

6. Re-read 8:18. The "glory to be revealed in us" is becoming Point #2 people, when Christ is our actual highest treasure, not the blessings He provides. Notice the connection Paul makes between this work of God in us and suffering!

7. When suffering occurs we "groan." Either we groan (bad groaning) because we're not getting the life we "deserve" or we groan (good groaning) because we legitimately hope for what we cannot fully experience in this life! (Romans 8:23-26). What strikes you from today's study?

Day Four: Freedom from Discouragement- Future Glory

Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

1. Verses 26-30 comprise a pledge to us from God related to our glorification. In it we can see the work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our future glory? (vv. 26-27). Look for at least 3 things the Spirit does for us that we cannot do ourselves.
3. In the last part of verse 27, what differentiates the way the Spirit prays on our behalf from the way we pray ourselves?
4. Look at verse 28. Take careful note that this oft-misquoted verse does NOT say all things are good. It says that God causes all things to work together FOR good. In other words, God can take even the most terrible, horrible, NOT good things that happen to you, and He can bring some good out of them. Sometimes, especially in the heat of the moment, it is very difficult for us to see that good, but eventually, we look back and see how God brought good from even the worst things.
5. Read verse 28 again and continue through verses 29-30 as well. Look for at least 5 things in these verses that speak to the over-arching purpose of God the Father.
6. Reread verse 29. What do you think it means “to become conformed to the image of His Son...”? What does that look like in your life right now?

Day Five: Freedom from Fear-No Separation

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us?

³² *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?* ³³ *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies;*

³⁴ *who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?*

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*

³⁹ *nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1. Because of the assurances we have from God, we can know that God is always FOR us and what is best for us, as we saw yesterday. Read verse 31 and spend a few minutes meditating on the awesome implications of the last half of the verse: "If God is for us, who is against us?"

2. What stirs in you as you ponder v. 31?

3. Read verse 32. What is the if/then promise God makes related to Christ's willingness to DIE on our behalf?

4. Verse 33. With God on our side, who is going to bring a charge against us? Paul also reminds us of that which we spent the first 4 weeks of this study determining: that God is the one who justifies us. Not ourselves or anyone else or our works or our birthright can justify us; only God.

5. Look at v. 34. What did Jesus do in our past and what is He still doing in our present?

6. As you read verse 35, note 7 conditions that will NOT be able to separate us from Christ. These represent the most severe trials any human could endure. Fair-weather friends are with us in good times, but when difficulty comes, they go. Not so with God. His promise to us here is great. Nothing, not even the most difficult situations will cause God to leave us.

7. Verse 37 contains another of the great promises of Scripture that is often memorized and repeated. How does it make you feel that God has declared that you are a conqueror, and not just a conqueror, but an overwhelming conqueror through Jesus Christ?

8. Finally, in verses 38-39, look at 10 things Paul uses to assure us that God always loves you!! Just the first 2 on the list pretty much covers everything for us, but God, in His extravagance, goes further. Look for ways that God overcomes life, rule, time and distance to love you!