

Questions

1. Why is it so assuring (and reassuring) to know that by faith in Christ, God has declared *no* condemnation for our sin of our past, present, and future?
2. How ought this declaration of "no condemnation" help assure us when we are struggling with (sinful) guilt over our sin?
3. Justification is the parallel positive of "no condemnation". Read Romans 5:1. What more do we get to enjoy and experience as a result of us being justified by faith?
4. When do you find it more difficult to live as you are not under condemnation? Do those times actually change your status before God? How can you better live in the reality of your "no condemnation" status before God?
5. Read Romans 6:15-23. What more do we learn about our past and present spiritual reality?
6. Based on verse 2, what should our view of our remaining sin be? With that, how ought we pursue putting to death our remaining sin?
7. We ought to walk by the spirit and not by the flesh. How intentional are you walking by the spirit? How can you be more intentional?
8. Why is it assuring to know that we have spiritual empowerment to live the Christian life?

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THE BIBLE'S SUMMIT

— A Sermon Series on Romans 8 —

Assuring Realities for the Christian Life

Romans 8:1-4

Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor

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Romans 8:1-4 provides believers with 3 assuring realities they should live in light of.

No Condemnation — Verse 1

"Condemnation" is a legal term found in the court system. It's not merely the pronouncement of guilt, it's also the sentence of punishment for the guilty verdict.

Those who are by faith united to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are not and will not be found guilty of their sin.

Being "in Christ" means so goes Christ, so goes you who are united to Christ.

Freedom From the Power of Sin — Verses 2-3

We could read verse 2 as, “for the liberating principle and power of the Holy Spirit—who is life and gives life—has set you free in Christ Jesus from the enslaving principle and power of sin that leads to death.”

The liberation of the Holy Spirit from sin's power comes about because He unites us to Christ and his finished work.

Verses 2 and 3 are just stacking explanations. Here's the logic...

- Verse 1, no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.
- Verse 2, For this reason, the power of the Spirit has set you free in Christ from the power of sin.
- Verse 3, The reason the Spirit has set you free in Christ from sin is because in Christ God condemned sin.

Through Jesus' substitutionary—in our place—atoning sacrifice for sin, Jesus canceled sin's judgement that we deserved by taking it upon himself, and, as result, Jesus broke the power that sin had over us.

As the freed people of God, we must understand this: the power of sin has been broken, but its presence remains. So, in our battle against remaining sin, we fight against an already defeated enemy.

Spiritual Empowerment — Verse 4

God's purpose in proclaiming “there's no condemnation for those in Christ” is “in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us...”.

The righteous *requirement* of the Mosaic law is loving others (Rom. 13:8-10). And Paul says, “that loving others might be fulfilled in us”.

The verb “might be fulfilled” in the Greek is in the “passive voice”. When a verb is in the passive—and not active—it means that it's something that being done *to* the person, *not* done *by* the person.

Fulfillment of the law in believers happens as they take steps of obedience to God in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.