



Case Closed, Part 2: When the Law Loses Its Grip Romans 8:1-4

I. The Law Cannot Claim You (vv. 1-2)

- A. Remember—you and I deserve God's _____ (v. 1)
1. Condemnation = guilty verdict + the _____ of wrath (Rom. 5:17-18; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 2:6; 3:23; 6:23)
 2. Justification = guilty verdict + the _____ of grace (Jn. 3:18; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:33-34)
- B. Remember—you and I are _____ in Christ Jesus (v. 2)
[Rom. 6:23; Jn. 8:36; 2 Cor. 3:6; Rom. 8:11; Col. 1:13]

II. The Law Cannot Condemn You (v. 3)

- A. The gospel _____ with God (Rom. 5:6-8; Jn. 3:16; Eph. 1:4-5, 11-12)
- B. The law is _____ to save (Rom. 7:12, 18)
1. The law reveals sin but cannot _____ (Rom. 3:20; 7:7)
 2. The law condemns but cannot _____ (Gal. 2:16; 2 Cor. 3:6-9)
 3. The law increases sin but cannot _____ it (Rom. 5:20; 1 Cor. 15:56)

4. The law points to Christ but cannot _____ Him (Gal. 3:24-25; Heb. 10:1)
 5. The law cannot give life—only the _____ can (Gal. 3:10-11; Acts 13:39)
- C. The divine _____
1. The _____ without corruption (Heb. 4:15; Phil. 2:7; 2 Cor. 8:9)
 2. The _____ of our sin on Christ (Isa. 53:6; 2 Cor. 5:21)
 3. The _____ of Christ's sacrifice (Col. 2:14-15; Rom. 5:1; 8:33-34)

III. The Law Cannot Control You (v. 4)

TAKE HOME:

- Are you living in the _____ of “no condemnation,” or are you still carrying guilt?
- How does understanding the “great exchange”—Christ taking your sin and giving you His righteousness—_____ your daily identity?
- Are you letting the truth that your penalty has been paid in full lead you in _____ obedience, or are you obeying out of fear and pressure?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Are you living with the confidence that there is now no condemnation for you in Christ, or do you still struggle with guilt and shame? (Romans 8:1)
2. How does knowing that you are “in Christ Jesus” change the way you view your spiritual identity and daily life? (Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
3. In what ways are you tempted to live as though God’s verdict is still pending, rather than settled forever? (Romans 8:1–2; John 5:24)
4. Are you relying on your own efforts to earn God’s approval, or resting in the finished work of Christ? (Romans 8:3; Galatians 2:16)
5. How does the truth that the “law of the Spirit of life” has set you free from the “law of sin and death” affect your battle with ongoing sin? (Romans 8:2; John 8:36)
6. Do you let the reality that Christ bore your condemnation lead you to joyful obedience, or do you obey out of fear and pressure? (Romans 8:3–4; Romans 5:1)
7. How do you respond when guilt or accusation arises—do you look to your own record or to the righteousness of Christ credited to you? (Romans 8:33–34; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
8. In what practical ways can you walk according to the Spirit, rather than trying to fulfill God’s law in your own strength? (Romans 8:4; Galatians 5:16–18)
9. How will you live differently this week based on what you have learned from this passage?

“The ‘law of double jeopardy’ states that a man cannot be tried twice for the same crime. Since Jesus Christ paid the penalty for your sins, and since you are ‘in Christ,’ God will not condemn you.”

- Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*