



Case Closed Part 3: When the Spirit Takes the Stand

Romans 8:1-4

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

- A. Remember—you and I deserve God's condemnation (v. 1)
- B. Remember—you and I are free in Christ Jesus (v. 2)

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

- A. The gospel begins with God (v. 3a)
- B. The law is powerless to save (v. 3b)
- C. The divine intervention (v. 3c-d)

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

- A. The Holy Spirit _____ you to fulfill the law (v. 4a)
 - 1. The _____ of Grace (Matt. 22:37-40; Rom. 13:10; Ezek. 26:27; Lk. 22:20)
 - 2. The law _____ in us, not by us (Phil. 2:13; Gal. 5:13-14; 1 Jn. 5:3; Rom. 7:12)

B. The Holy Spirit _____ you to go beyond the flesh (v. 4b)

- 1. What it means to “_____” (Lk. 1:6; Eph. 4:1, 17; 1 Jn. 1:7)
- 2. The two _____ of life (Rom. 8:5-8, 9-11; Gal. 6:8)
- 3. The Spirit _____ your direction (Ezek. 36:27; Gal. 5:16; Psa. 1:3; Prov. 4:26-27)

TAKE HOME:

- Am I trying to _____ God's law by my effort or by the Spirit's power?
- What's one “_____” area where I need to surrender control?
- How can I consciously “_____ by the Spirit” this week?

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. Am I truly living each day in the freedom from condemnation that Christ has secured for me? (Romans 8:1)
2. Do I rely on my own strength to obey God, or am I depending on the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's righteous requirements in my life? (Romans 8:4; Philippians 2:13)
3. Is my understanding of grace leading me to greater obedience and love, or am I using it as an excuse for spiritual laziness? (Galatians 5:13–14)
4. How does my daily walk reflect a life led by the Spirit rather than by the flesh? (Romans 8:4–5; Galatians 5:16)
5. In what ways am I actively loving God with all my heart, soul, and mind? (Matthew 22:37–38)
6. How am I demonstrating love for my neighbor in practical ways this week? (Matthew 22:39–40; Romans 13:10)
7. When faced with temptation, do I remember that the Spirit has changed my desires and direction, enabling me to walk in obedience? (Ezekiel 36:27; Galatians 5:16)
8. Does my life show evidence of the fruit of the Spirit, or am I still trying to "decorate" my life with external rule-keeping? (Galatians 5:22–23)
9. Read the take home questions which one encourages me or challenges me the most? Why? How can I live differently this week based on what I have learned from this passage?

"The believer lives a righteous life, not in the power of the Law, but in the power of the Holy Spirit."

- Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*