

Romans 8:1-17

¹ There is therefore now **NO** condemnation to those who are **IN** Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me **FREE** from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 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 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ **So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

In Romans 8:1-17 → “flesh” = “the old sinful nature” we inherited from Adam and Eve.

The sinful fleshly carnal, selfish, self-centered nature ... the old sinful nature used to control Paul before he was Saved by Christ. Old Saul, the old man, the old sinful Saul, who was very religious, and sought to follow the law, sin used to control him ... that is what Romans 7 was all about. Before Christ, Saul of Tarsus was a great Jew, Israeli, Hebrew of Hebrews, Pharisee ... but here in Chapter 8, Paul exposes how that even a devout Jew, who was seeking with all his heart, mind, and strength to follow the Law of God, the Law of Sin and of Death was still in control, which made him hostile in his mind toward God. Even though Saul thought his religious devotion was pleasing to God, God said otherwise. The person who is controlled by the old sinful nature (as Saul admits in Romans 7:9-12,23 – sin, the law of sin was holding him captive and was killing him)

So a person who is IN Christ Jesus (i.e. Born Again in Christ) that person is NOT Condemned ...

¹ **There is therefore now NO condemnation to those who are IN Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**

I must be Saved to Experience Freedom from the Penalty and the Power of Sin (as seen in Romans 5 & 6).

Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” John 5:24

⁷ **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)**

We are forgiven, justified, saved, set-free from the penalty of Sin, and set free from the Power of Sin in Christ

Paul is contrasting LIFE in Christ (Life in the Holy Spirit ...) with living under the control of the old sinful nature.

⁵For 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. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh CANNOT please God.

The Old Sinful Nature – when it is in control of a person it...:

1. Brings Death
2. Will control the way the sinner thinks ... which leads to “dead” thinking or thinking that leads to death
3. Is Hostile toward God, at odds with God, is an enemy toward God in its “thinking” and “attitudes” it will argue with God and think it is better than God, better logic, better ways of life, better choices, etc.
4. A person controlled by the old sinful nature (the unsaved person) cannot please God, cannot and will not want to serve God nor will want to submit to Him or His rules/Word

1 Corinthians 2:14 – “the natural man does not receive the ‘things’ of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”

The ‘things’ of God = the Word of God ... the teachings in the Word of God that relate to Living for God, Obeying Him, Living according to the ways of Life He wants us to live, etc. Prayer, Devotion, Studying Scripture, being surrendered to Him, allowing Christ to rule and reign in our lives, being in Love with Christ, having a daily “walk” with God in Christ Jesus, etc. Those kinds of things will just be foolishness, foolish waste of time and energy. There are much better things to invest my life in (is what an unsaved person will say).

The unsaved person, the person who is not genuinely “born again” in Christ, no matter even if he/she totally believes that the God of the Bible exists, totally believes that He is the Only True and Living God, and believes Jesus Christ is God in human flesh, the virgin born Son of God, and the Messiah of Israel, etc... if that unsaved person is still unsaved, unregenerate, not Born Again in Christ ... he/she will still be an enemy of God ... enemy in his/her mind, thinking, and attitudes. He/she will not want to know the Real Word of God (the ‘things’ of God) – they will be foolishness to him/her. Yes, that sinner may fully believe that the 10 Commandments are truly from God, yet still his/her sinful nature, will find something wrong with God in some way, will judge God, and even be very religious with a better way to serve God, etc. . . just like what the Pharisees developed, their own religion of Pharisaic Judaism. Yes, that is what Jesus Christ condemned when He spoke out against the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Herodians... the Leven / Teaching of the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Herodians ... their beliefs were incorrect and thus they were wrong in their thinking ... even in their religious fervor to “obey” God, they sought to obey God in their own way, which was their own selfish way of legalism, which ended up disobeying God anyways. God did not approve of their Pharisee religion. Just read Matthew 23 (nuff said). Saul of Tarsus found this out and when he came to the end of himself, that is when Christ saved Him (on the road to Damascus). Following Christ seems foolish, to the unbeliever. The unbeliever despises those who do good, hates God, is an enemy to God and wants to do his/her own thing, in his/her way. Being under the control and domination of the old sinful nature affects the sinners thinking and attitudes, which translate into choices and ways of life. One can be religious and even think he/she is following the real God, or that sinner may be fully hateful toward God, His Word, and His people as an angry militant atheist. Either way, the old sinful nature is still in full control, and the sinner is OK with that.

LIFE in the SPIRIT... in Christ...

The moment I am Born Again in Christ all of the following happen (and much more):

1. **God's Holy Spirit comes into our heart & life, forever** (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; Titus 3:4-7; Romans 8:1-17; 1 Corinthians 12:13; John 3:3-8 → "born again" = "born of the Spirit" - John 14:17; 7:37-39)
2. **He applies Christ's Redemption** to us ... blood of the Lamb of God on the lintel and door posts of our hearts...
(Titus 3:4-7; 1 John 1:7-9; God's Judgment will Pass Over us → John 5:24)
3. **He Gives us a New Heart in Christ Jesus** ... we become new Creations in Christ Jesus ... we pass from death unto life... (our inner most being is re-created in Christ)
(John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:22-24; Romans 2:29; Ezek. 36:25-27; Jeremiah 24:7)
4. **We receive Eternal LIFE** ... Forever LIFE in Christ ... yes, Forever
It is NOT probationary life that we can lose and regain somehow ...
We keep our salvation forever ... **forever Saved in Christ** ...
Assurance of Salvation (John 3:16; 3:36; 10:27-30; 1 John 5:11-12)
5. **I am SET Free from the "law of sin and of death" – I am Delivered**
²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me **FREE** from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
6. **I have a New MIND-SET ... now I CAN set my mind of the Things of God ... what my My Focuses on is what my Heart with Dwell on and in ...**
those who live according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit. (vs 5)
7. My Mind SET upon God, His Word, and the 'things' of the Holy Spirit ... always bring LIFE ... they are living, healthy, good for me, and help me fulfill God's Calling in my LIFE ...
Life-purpose ... LIFE Focus to Please God
8. My MIND Set upon God ... My Mind Controlled by the Holy Spirit ... bring PEACE ...
I will NOT Be at odds or hostile toward God or His Word. I will have put down the my weapons that I used to fight God with, and I will be At Peace with God.
9. If I am in Christ, His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, ruling and reigning in my life ... I will actually Please God. I will be at Peace with Him, in Love with Him, WANT to Obey Him.
He will give me Strength, supernatural ability to Obey Him, and give me Desires to want to Obey Him, with the Same Power that God used to Raise Jesus Christ from the Dead. (vv 9-13)
We no longer have to obey the calls of the old sinful nature, we now have the ability and desire to Obey God, we can even put to death the old sinful nature's desires ...
10. God's Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Adoption in which we cry out ABBA! Father - Daddy - Father a term of endearment of an infant crying out for his/her daddy to pick him/her up in his/her father's arms. **Daddy hold me. ABBA! Father** ... God is our Father ...
God's Holy Spirit, He give us Full Assurance that we are God's children, born again in Christ Jesus our LORD and Savior - vv. 15-17 – compare with Galatians 4:6-7

Are you truly Born Again, today? Look at verse 9 and compare with verses 14-16

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

Do you hear God's Voice in this?

Jesus said ... (in John 10):

¹ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for **they know his voice.**"

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own."

²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

If you don't have the Holy Spirit in your life, in your heart ... you are NOT Born Again, born from above, born of the Spirit.

If you are not Born Again, you will not Hear the Shepherd's Voice through His Spirit who dwells in you... You are Mine ... You are the Children of God" **¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God**

How can you know the Shepherd, How can you hear His Voice, His Spirit's Witness with your own Spirit in your heart that you are God's Children if you are NOT born into His Family – if you are not Born Again?

But If you are Born Again ... you will Hear His Voice, you will have Full Assurance of Your Salvation, You will want to Live to Please God, you will want to learn His Word, study His Word ... and most importantly Obey His Word ... does this describe you today ... or are you not sure ?

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

Jesus is coming back very soon, you need to make sure you are truly Born Again, today. Please do so, today, even now.