

NO GUILT vs NO CONDEMNATION

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February 9, 2020

Greetings! It's a great blessing for me to come to you and serve you with the good news of Jesus Christ and to remind you of His grace and the love that He has towards you and the power of His resurrection, wherein you can share in the quality of His life.

Our web church is all about serving people with the good news of Jesus Christ. If you need somebody to walk this path with you and you need one of our web pastors to contact you, please go to dynamicministries.com. Click on the web church tab and then under "contact us", write us an email saying you want to get in connection with a web pastor and we will contact you and just walk this grace road with you if you need somebody to assist you a little bit. We don't have all the answers but what we do have is knowledge that God is good. We experience His life and we are willing to walk with you as God gives you the answers for your life. Amen

Let us just pray together as we start this Service.

Father, thank You for Your Gospel. Thank You that we don't have to rely on our own abilities but we can rely upon You that brings life to us, that makes us share in who You are... that makes us feel what it feels like to have Your life and to possess Your life. Thank You that it is possible to have the fulness of the Godhead, bodily, and to be complete in that truth. Thank You, thank You, thank You, so much, Lord! Spirit of God, thank You that You speak powerfully through me today, encouraging Your people today. Amen and amen

We are in a series where I am teaching through Romans. We are going to start to read from Romans chapter 8 and the famous verse is going to come into discussion today where it clearly says that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. I'm going to explain that today.

Today we are going to learn that:

... No condemnation does not mean no feelings of guilt when you live under the law. Let me say that again. No condemnation does not mean that there is no more feelings of guilt for you should you be bearing the fruit of the flesh in your life. It doesn't mean that.

... Walking in the flesh has nothing to do with committing sins or walking in the flesh is not defined as committing sins but there's something else.

... In Romans 8, when we are “minding” the spirit or “minding’ the flesh, it is related to the formation of an opinion according to either the flesh or the spirit; It has to do with an opinion about yourself and about God and your future. When you are spiritually minded, we are going to learn that it has everything to do with having an opinion of yourself according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh.

... The law of the Spirit of Life manifests in the body of humans as the effect that the Spirit of Christ has on the body, leading them to holiness accompanied by eternal LIFE or actually having eternal life as the source of it. So, the law of the spirit of life is not just something that is spiritual but it is the force of God that influences our lives today. It is experienced as the fruit of the Spirit and then the end, eternal life. Glory to God!

We have a lot of work to go through but whatever we get through this Sunday, we will go through. If we can't finish it, then we are going to go into next Sunday and talk about this.

Romans 8:

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, *who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* (I want you to notice that *who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit* is in italics.)

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 my flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Very interesting! There's no condemnation for us. Why? Because Christ condemned. He's the one who condemns. It is Christ. But what does He condemn? He does not condemn us but He condemns sin in the flesh. That means that He ends it.

4 *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* Many times this passage is often seen as a very condemning passage. People say that means that we will now **do** the law, which is a completely wrong understanding of that verse.

5 *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit 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, neither indeed can be.*

8 *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

9 *But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*”

That is a lot of theology right there! It is beautiful if you see what it really says.

Before I get into verse one, I just want to say this: I was speaking to my wife and I said, "When we read the Bible, we find that the Bible is a very complicated book." It is complicated! It doesn't matter what we want to say about it. It's complicated. We are talking about cultures that are thousands of years ago, different languages, different ways of thinking, a completely different world than our world. It is a world where there is no electricity, no running water, no cars, no cell phones, no TV... none of that. It is a world that is flooded with myths and all those kind of things, and different gods, and different cultures, to a very big extent. And now we read the old writings of thousands of years ago and it has been translated and we also have on our glasses of our own culture. It is so difficult to think outside of your culture and we interpret all these things and it might become very complicated and difficult to see what is really said.

I said to my wife that there are some things in the Bible that will just never be understood by certain people. That is just the way it is. It is just too complicated. It is too difficult to see. For many folks, they are unlearned people that will never understand linguistics. Yet, you need to understand those things in order to understand certain verses in the Bible in its context. But, and this is the beautiful thing about the Gospel, once you've understood everything, once you've looked into the culture, once you've seen everything, the message is very simple. The message is very simple. That message became flesh and manifested in a form wherein you don't need to have linguistics and understanding in ancient languages, and the Hebrew and all those kinds of things, to understand what's taking place. When you see a man that was crucified, that was raised from the dead, was glorified in His resurrection, taken up to heaven, then appeared again to Paul and told him that He is the ruler of the world and that He brings life to whosoever trusts Him, I mean, what more do you need? You don't need anything else but that that simple Gospel.

So, as we look into Romans, we might say that we don't always understand the language and everything. Let me tell you this: As we look at this, all that it is going to bring is just a confirmation that the Apostle Paul and the people in Rome and the early church, were standing in the simple message that you already believe. And all that it does is, as you see that from Genesis into Exodus, into Leviticus, right through Deuteronomy, into the major, minor, prophets, the Psalms, the early church, that there was only one message. As you see the confirmation in all these things, all it does is, it just puts a big "Amen" on what you already believe.

So, if you have believed the simple message, the simple gospel, that Jesus is Lord and was raised from the dead, and you believe that through His rulership over your life, you will have eternal life and so be saved from whatsoever kills you, and have eternal life, if you have believed that, you have reached the depths of what you can understand from the Scriptures. That is it! All context, all Greek, or Hebrew, Aramaic, understanding of history, will only confirm that point. That is how beautiful all of this is. We are just going to look at Romans 8 and we are going to see how this truth is just seen by Paul and confirmed in the culture of that time.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

When it says here, **no condemnation**, what does that mean? The context is the word, therefore, which comes from Romans chapter 7. Last week we talked about Romans 7 where it says that Paul likened it to a marriage. If you were married to death, then all you can do, even if you go and flirt with another lady called life, you are still legally married to death and you'll bear the fruit of death.

In the end of Chapter 7, he says, **who shall deliver me from the body of this death?** He says, "Jesus Christ will!" He says that because of the resurrection of Jesus and because He has ended my union with death in providing a body that lives forever, I can therefore say, "I am NOT condemned anymore to bear the fruit of death. I am NOT forced to live by the law of sin and death. I am free from that. I am not obligated to bring forth death anymore for I have been set free from death."

Jesus entered death. He was raised from the dead and where He is today, as a glorified human, in whom the fulness of the Godhead is bodily, where no part of His body, none of Him, can be tempted to sin. He is above all of that. And I am now in Him, standing under His rule. That means that He knows how to aid my weakness, and He knows how to give me life. Therefore, I am not condemned anymore to the life wherein I have to bear the fruit of the flesh and have to enter the condemnation of eternal death. I've been set free from that.

So, "no condemnation", has everything to do with being under the condemning law of sin and death. You know, if you've been married to death, you are condemned to bear the fruit of death until your husband death has died. But, other than that, you are going to bear that fruit. You can say, "I'm not married to him and go and flirt with someone else, it doesn't matter. In essence, you are still married to death and you will bear that fruit. But God has come in Jesus and He has conquered sin in the flesh and provided eternal life to humans. As we believe upon Him, we bear the fruit of His resurrection by His power and we are not condemned anymore.

Romans 7:

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Remember that he said in the previous passage that whenever I want to do something good, I find that evil is with me. And he came to the bottom-line conclusion that the law has shown him that his problem is bigger than what he thought. His problem was not the Gentiles. His problem was a dying body. He basically says, **O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death** (the body that is married to death or his own mortal flesh)?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (When he says, "I thank God through Jesus, the Christ our Lord", he immediately has in mind what he will say in Romans 10. He says that Jesus is Lord, means He rules over this death. That's what he says.) **So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin** (death).

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

There is no condemnation. We are not condemned to the life where “the good that I want to do, I don’t do, and the bad that I don’t want to do, that I do”, should we not live under the flesh but under the Spirit. What Paul does here is he says, “Living in the Spirit is to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord.” Because when you believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord, you believe that He was raised by the Spirit of the Father. The Scripture teaches the Father raised Him, the Holy Spirit raised Him up. So now, you are saying, “Life comes, not from my own works but life in my flesh comes from the Spirit of God.” If you walk with that mind, then you are not condemned anymore to bear the fruit of the flesh.

We need to understand that bearing the fruit of the flesh is not something you decide to do, but it is a fruit of a belief. That is what it is. So, in my life, should I have any of the fruit of the flesh in my life, all that I do is I say, “God, thank You that You help me to focus on Jesus and what He has given me where I find no confidence in my own ability but I find my confidence in You!” I find as my mind is renewed to the truth of what He has done in His death and resurrection that He, by His power, ends the fruit of the flesh in my life. I don’t repent of the fruit of the flesh but I repent of wrong believing. To repent of that takes place in God bringing forth the right belief to our lives.

Some of you that study Scripture will see that some translations do not put in italics, the part that says, “**who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**” They say that piece is not in the original manuscript. It is in some of the older manuscripts. They find that it’s not there. There is a lot of dispute about it. But, even if it is not in the original, I do believe that one can put those words into that verse as what most of the translators did because of the context. The context allows for those words to be there. I do believe that the translator, when he translates the passage, unless it is a literal translation like Young’s literal translation, we can add things into the scripture if we are not adding to the Word, we continue to share the message. I do believe that it is not wrong to say, “who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

For those who want to live by their own ability, I want to tell you that there is condemnation for you. We need to talk a little bit about this word, condemnation, because I have found that in Grace circles, we’ve gone to a point where we say some of the people coming there, may get drunk and cheat on their wife or husband and then after that they say, “Well, there’s no condemnation for me, in Christ Jesus! Hallelujah!” Then they find that they have to say that to themselves on a regular basis because they are actually feeling very guilty about this. They feel condemned. They feel death in themselves. They don’t feel life. Then they just continue to say that there’s no condemnation for me. I am in Jesus Christ.

The other day I had a preacher come to my house and he said, “A lot of people that preach what you preach, their ministry has gone backwards and maybe it’s non-existing anymore. But, why is your ministry still going? Why is it that you are still preaching and still find people supporting you financially and the ministry is still continuing?” I didn’t know what to answer him right then.

I went and thought about this, prayed about this. And it came to my mind that in the grace message there is a move, if you want to call it that, where we teach that there is no condemnation saying that you don't have to feel guilty when you have done something bad. It is a message that is preached as, "Well, we are not guilty anymore and that is all what it is all about." It is not a message about how God brings forth fruit, effortlessly, into your life.

I think that brings people to a place where they have not truly understood the Gospel and they are finding a lifestyle that brings a lot of guilt to them. I find a lot of people got into the message of grace and then they started to believe that everybody is saved. They start to believe that none of our works matter. They started to believe that they can be sexually immoral for there is no condemnation for us. Even if I would go and correct them, they would say that I am judgmental and law minded. At the end of the day you find that their lives are falling apart and then they become atheists, Buddhists, don't believe in God anymore. They have changed their whole perspective but I believe that it also has a lot to do with not understanding what "no condemnation" means.

Paul described a condemned life as a life that is under the severe sentence of death which was then described in Romans 7 as a life wherein you find your confidence in the flesh. In Paul's context, that I preached at last Sunday, it was, "I stand as a Jew before God where I have access to the law and then through the law, I have a pathway to life." When he engaged his flesh, he was under the sentence of death. Then he was also a person that hated that kind of life. He would say, "I don't want to live like this! Who will save me from this body of death, for I desire a life that is not flooded with concupiscence and all those kinds of things. Then, God showed him that he had that life by the resurrection of Jesus.

So, I want to say this: We cannot confuse the word, condemn, with the word, guilty. The Bible says in Romans 8 that for those who are in Christ, the Spirit is life and the flesh is death. So, even if you are in Christ, you cannot go back to the law, back to Judaism and confidence in your own ability. For if you do that, you will find that you start to do things that is contrary to what you really want to do and how you really want to live. That is what Paul says in Romans chapter 7.

Now he comes to Romans chapter 8 and he says, "Thank God that through Jesus we never, ever, have to rely upon our own ability. We rely upon the ability of the resurrected Jesus and His Spirit that brings forth fruit in our life." That's what Paul says. But I want to say, and I have experienced this in my own life, if you want to live under, "I'm going to sort this out. It's by my ability", I can promise you that within a very short period of time you are going to start to see the fruit of the flesh in your life and accompanied with the fruit of the flesh, is feelings of guilt. You will be a Christian and you will believe in Jesus but if you are legalistic and you want to live by the law, your life will be flooded with feelings of guilt.

I would say that the only ones that wouldn't feel feelings of guilt is the narcissist because you know, in his brain, the area that feels emotions of guilt and that he can be wrong and empathy and compassion, those things are dead in his brain. It doesn't really work. Then only the narcissist under the law feels no guilt or very little guilt. But, the rest of us will feel guilty.

We are going to feel that what I have done is not right. I'm going to feel that I don't qualify. I'm going to feel that I am not good enough. I'm going to try to justify myself. Your life is going to be flooded with that!

So, when Paul comes and says, "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus", he does not mean that there are no feelings of guilt for Christians who bear the fruit of the flesh in their lives by being legalistic in areas of their lives. That's not what he is saying. He's not saying that there are no bad feelings if I have murdered somebody. I'm using a severe example here but if you have lied, you straight forward lied about something, and you are now a grace believer, let me tell you that you are going to feel a feeling of guilt. You are going to feel bad. If you have been sexually immoral, you are going to feel bad. But the beautiful news is that you don't have to be condemned. You are not condemned to a life anymore where you habitually have to feel bad for there is now a new way of life. It is trust in the resurrected Jesus who will then bring forth a life in you that has His fruit. It would just be foolish to say to somebody that lies, "There's no condemnation for you", meaning you don't ever have to feel guilty about what you've done.

Even if you say that to him, he will still feel guilty because I feel that guilty feeling inside a person is also part of what we would call, "a spiritual nerve system". When I start to feel guilt about something, maybe not supporting my wife or my children or I feel guilty because I spend too much time watching TV (We don't even have a TV that's connected to any satellite), but, if that is the case, I start to feel guilt there. To me I don't want to shun that feeling and say, "No, no, I'm not supposed to feel guilty. I'm just saying, "Why am I feeling this?" I would actually say, "Lord, as I walk in grace this is not part of my emotions but obviously, somewhere, I am living by works righteousness. I am not finding my identity in You." I don't want to just shun it.

It's like pain. You know if I feel pain, I go to the doctor. If I feel guilt in any form or fashion, I don't try and shun the feeling of guilt in saying, "Well, there's no guilt for me because I am a Christian and I'm in Jesus" because the word of no condemnation doesn't mean no feeling of guilt should you be bearing the fruit of the flesh. Then I go and pray about it and the Lord shows me His truth and then I feel so much better.

There was something recently that happened in my life. I was feeling guilty about certain things and then I was trying to justify myself in saying, "Well, you know that I've only meant good and this and this and this." But I looked at the bad thing and there was a kind of a guilt about it but I didn't know how to think about this thing. Then I went to God, prayed to God about it, was honest in my heart and the Lord showed me a way where I could look at this. And I tell you that all forms of guilt is removed because I have now seen this in the light of the grace of God. I've got God's view and opinion about this now. And now the guilt is removed from me by the power of God in God correcting how I see things and believe things.

I want to say this again: When the Bible says that there is no condemnation or feelings of guilt or no frustration for those who are in Christ Jesus, it doesn't mean that if you've once in your life said, "Jesus is my Lord", that you can feel happy and joyful and it doesn't matter what you have done. It doesn't mean that.

I can promise you now that if you are a father and you ill-treat your child, even if you are in Jesus, believing in Jesus, you are going to feel bad. You're going to feel that you have done something wrong. It is how it is. If you are a father and you get legalistic and you start to shout and cuss in the house and as a husband you swear at your wife or things like that, as a Christian who is in Christ, I want to tell you that you will have feelings of guilt. You will feel that you have been wrong.

To use Romans chapter 8 to say that there is no condemnation for me, I don't have to feel guilty about this, would simply be a gross twisting of that scripture into something that it is not. When that has happened, you can go to God and say, "I have now sworn at my wife. I've been ill-treating my children. I didn't do certain things right and I want to just say that I get the feeling of a life that doesn't belong to You. Lord, in You, I am NOT condemned to a life wherein I swear at my wife, where I beat my children and all those kinds of things. No! I'm not condemned to that in Christ. So, I want to see, Lord. I want to see how I am in You. I'll thank You, Lord, that You remove any form of legalism, any form of self-justification from me. Speak to me, God, because clearly, I can see that I must have been walking in my own ability to bring forth this truth. I want to rest in You. I want to see the Sabbath day. I want to see the rest in Your rulership over my life." It might be that something wrong happened and I saw the wrong but I didn't go back and rest in God solving the wrong. I just went in by my own power trying to fix that and it just brought the fruit of the flesh.

Let us go and just look at that again. It says, ***There is therefore now no condemnation...*** That word, condemnation, means an adverse sentence (the verdict), a sentence. And then this word, condemnation, comes right from Chapter 7 where there is a sentence by the law that should you be married to the flesh, your own ability, you are sentenced to bring forth fruit unto death. But we who are in Christ who have stepped away from the law and now believe in the resurrected Jesus and His glorified human flesh, in Him as the man that now rules over my flesh and gave me place in His body, where by His power, He heals me. I am not condemned anymore to bear the sentence of death in the flesh or sin, in the flesh. I am now condemned, if you want to call it like that, to bear the fruit of the Spirit and this is as long as I don't go back to the old law.

Remember the context of Romans. Paul is writing and he has the Gentiles in his mind but he is kind of beating up on the Jews a bit. The Gentiles, standing next to him, pointing the finger saying, "Yes! You Jews messed up. You wanted to live by the flesh and all those kinds of things." Just in the end of Romans, you are going to find him turning on the Gentiles saying, "You are busy with the very same thing as what these Jews were busy with. You're trying to live by your own power. You find your identity in being a non-Jew and think that qualifies you for the life of God. It doesn't!"

So that is the context and in Romans 7 he says to these people, "You are living by the law and I don't want you to go back to the law. All you Jews that want to preach to the Gentile that they must follow the law, I want to tell you that I went back to the law. I believed in Jesus for a time. Then I went back to the law and I discovered that when I'm confident in my own flesh, when I start to walk by the flesh, I find that this flesh body, and living in the mortal body, I experience death. I will still experience death. So, we are never going back to that. We are only going to believe in the resurrected Jesus.

He says, "Who will save me from being condemned to a life wherein I bear the fruit of the flesh? I thank God through Christ. So now I am not reminded anymore that I am a Jew that I have to follow the law. I am reminded that the resurrected Jesus is now the One who Lords it over me and He condemned sin in the flesh by providing another way to life and so I can bear the fruit of the Spirit." That is what Paul is saying.

To make it practical, when Romans 8 verse 1 says that there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ, what that means is that if you feel guilty, if you see the fruit of the flesh in your life, what you can do is go to God and say, "God, somewhere in my life, I don't find my identity in who I am in You. I've relied upon my own flesh." You don't even have to know where you've done that. That is irrelevant. All you want to do is you want to know what He says about you. And as you discover that and as He reveals that to you, you find that His life brings forth fruit in you.

We have run out of time and I just conclude this. I can just end the message this way: We, as believers in Jesus, are not condemned any more to the place where the good that we want to do, we cannot do and the bad that we don't want to do, we will do. The reason why we are not condemned to that is because we have no confidence in our own ability to try and produce good. We are standing under the jurisdiction of the resurrected Jesus whose job is to bring forth fruit in us... even eternal life. He has given His Spirit of life to us and we are now led by the Spirit of life and we are therefore called the sons of God. Glory to God! The question would arise, "What if I see any of the bad fruit in my life?" Paul's life is an example of that in Romans 7 and he just comes to the realization again, "Let me see who I am in Christ and not try and sort certain things out of my life by human ability and flesh." That is it.

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve you with this message today. Next Sunday we will continue with the good news and bring you the Gospel of God's Grace as we go into verses 2-8. We'll just take it slowly but we are going through this and make sure all of you understand this.

Thank you so much for those of you on YouTube that put a like on this video. It just causes more people to see it and watch it.

Remember, you are loved by God. He embraces you with all of His being and gives you His peace. Amen

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