



The New Man

In Romans 5:1-11 Paul shared about the personal inner joy and peace stemming from being a Christian. The changes don't stop there! In 8:1-11 he continues on teaching what happens on the inside of the Christian that makes such an outward difference. Christ freed us from the arena of selfishness that results in death, and brings us into the presence of the Spirit's love, power and life.

A.) Freed from Condemnation (Rom 8:1)

^{8:1} There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

"Therefore...no condemnation" powerfully summarizes all the chapters that has preceded it: Sinful=> condemned => needs salvation => man can't help himself => Jesus as Savior => Believe in Jesus => Free from sin and belong to Christ => Can sin, but don't have to sin because of Christ (7:25).

- People cannot receive the Gospel's message of freedom until they know the conviction of sin.
- Freedom from condemnation is only offered to those "who are in Christ Jesus" (cf.4).



B.) Freed By the Spirit (Rom 8:2-8)

It is critical that we get a real picture of the horrors of condemnation and being apart from Christ, less we make an erroneous conclusion like the Israelites when they became convinced that Egypt's slavery was better than the freedom of going to Canaan (Num 11:5-6).

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the 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 are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- A better law—"Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (8:2).
- Law's inadequacy versus Christ's adequacy (3): "For what the Law could not do."
- "In order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us" (4).
- "Who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" (4) is similar to verse 1 "for those who are in Christ Jesus" which depicts the specific atoning work of God in Christ for those who believe.
- Verses 5-8 describe the marks of the unregenerated ("according to the flesh") from which we are set free:
 - "The mind set on the flesh is death" (6).
 - "The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God" (7).
 - "It does not subject itself to the law of God" (7).
 - "It is not even able to subject itself to the law of God" (7).
 - "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (8).



On the one hand, Paul is again establishing the need for the law to condemn us but also showing the powerful and tyrannical nature of our flesh and why we all need to know Jesus Christ.

- "Set their minds on the things "according to the Spirit" (4,5). "The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (6) reflects the new standard of love by which that person lives—in contrast to the self leading to death. Life with peace is set in stark contrast to death and its aggressive pursuit for self. The principle or rule of the Spirit of life takes over control of our lives.

Summary

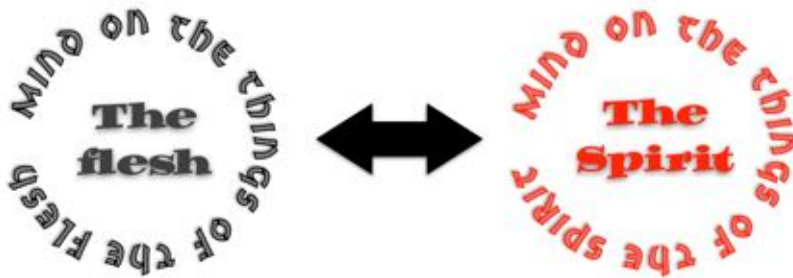
- The condemnation of the flesh becomes obvious when closely compared to its association of the ways of God. The old nature's inherent hatred of the things of God is set in clear contrast to the beautiful love for the things of God by the new spiritual nature. The old man does not fulfill the Law of God not only because it is unable but because it doesn't want to! It never will change even when we become a Christian.

C.) Freed for the Spirit (Rom 8:9-11)

The important question to be addressed is not simply what we are freed from but what we are freed for!

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if (*since*) indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

- Freedom for – “in the Spirit”(9): Clarifying the new Spirit-enabled ‘network’ that God’s people are connected to.
- Indwelling – “the Spirit of God dwells in you” (9): The Spirit resides in believers (9,10,11). This is repeated in verse 11 and restated in verse 10 as “Christ in you.” (Temple concept: I Cor 3:16-17; 6:19),
- Ownership – Verse 9 relates ownership with indwelling. Replaced with a new Owner, the Spirit of God.
- The Spirit lives through us (10-11)! Both verses 10-11 speak about how Christ through the Spirit enables us, though still possessing our human bodies (i.e. flesh), to live out the purposes of God.
- “He... will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you” (11) speaks not only of the new life, living in light of God’s holy purposes, but also to the ongoing aspect—eternal life—that will usher us into eternity.



Summary

Get convinced! Our evil nature is not just a little bad. Our sinful nature will **always** betray us. Don't trust it a bit. But the Spirit of God? Yes, trust Him always. God is eager to teach you how to live in harmony with Him just as Jesus did. Our Christian life is about choosing to allow Christ to live out His ways through our lives!

Application questions

- 1) Do all Christians have the Spirit? What if I don't feel like I have the Spirit?
- 2) Give an instance when you carried out something in the flesh (like getting angry or impatient). How did it help or hurt you and others? What would be the difference if you let the Spirit of Christ resolve that situation? What might happen?
- 3) Is the leading of the Spirit of Christ your delight or do you in some ways fear His complete leadership?