

ROMANS 8:1-11

Introduction:

1. From our last lesson in Chapter 7, we learned that Paul gave us insight to the fact that we deal with two natures within us - telling us how we are to live life. These 2 natures are:
 - a. Through faith in Christ - where we have a divine nature
 - b. Through Adam - our old sin nature, where sin dwells in our flesh
2. We either have God working in our lives or His old adversary, Satan, controlling our desires of the flesh. Paul tells us that he had these two opposite forces at work in him, where he does not approve of the things he is doing, but is in agreement with the law - because it is good.
3. Paul is saying the problem is not in the law, but it is in him and he needs help.
4. We learned that there are different laws that affect us - those fixed rules or principles like:
 - a. The law of God - refers to the commandments of God.
 - b. The law in our members - referring to our indwelling sin nature.
 - c. The law of our mind - refers to the mind of the believer (redeemed mind).
5. Paul now gives us a two more law principles here in Chapter 8:
 - a. The law of sin and death (8:2) - in our flesh, sin produces death.
 - b. The law of the Spirit of life (8:2) - in Christ Jesus.
6. Chapter 8 is probably the greatest chapter in Romans, if not the best in the whole Bible. This chapter tells us Who our helper is for us to live a godly life - "The Holy Spirit" - Who becomes the dominant Person living inside us.
1. Paul starts with that word he used frequently in his writings - "therefore" - meaning going back to what he has been teaching in the previous seven chapters of Romans about fallen man.
 - a. Romans 1 - revealing the wrath of God on all ungodliness.

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.

- b. Romans 2 - starts revealing by judging others, but we are inexcusable.
 - c. Romans 3 - saying there is none righteous, no not one - all have sinned.
 - d. Romans 4 - lays out justification by faith, using Abraham's faith alone.
 - e. Romans 5 - being justified by faith, we have peace with God.
 - f. Romans 6 - Paul enlarges on justification by Christ dying on the cross.
 - g. Romans 7 - explains the two natures battling inside us.
2. So here, in Chapter 8, we have taken what we have learned in the previous chapters and it gets wrapped up.
3. "...therefore now no condemnation to them..." means we were unable to fulfill the law's requirements by our own efforts, but we do now - living the grace principle - being in Christ.

Ephesians 5:30 - For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

I Corinthians 3:16 - Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

4. This verse is not a reference to the security of the believer. This reference is in regard to not living under the law principle, but living under grace.

5. The last part of this verse is "who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit". Many Bible scholars, liberals, and Christendom say this phrase should not be there and the translators were wrong in placing it in this verse. Many say the last words were added and copied from verse 4 - they were a copyist error. They say if the last words are left in 8:1, that would deny eternal security.

*By leaving these last 10 words in the verse, they think not only is it removing eternal security, but makes salvation conditional.

6. We were taught in Romans 5 and 6 about the eternal security of the believer - it is a done deal! The issue here is the believer's walk for those who are in Christ (those who do not walk after the law/flesh, but walk after the Spirit/grace).

*For them, there will be no condemnation, damnation, or judgment concerning their walk. Our salvation is already secure.

1. "The law of the Spirit" means there is life in Jesus Christ. We learned that, due to our union with Christ (with Him in D.B.R.), we have been made alive with Him in a spiritual resurrection.

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Ephesians 2:1 - And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2. This law of life principle has made believers "free from the law of sin and death". We have been liberated, in that we do not have to yield to sin and death any more.

3. The law of sin constantly works to drag us down, while the law of the Spirit (that God has given us in Christ) works to lift us up.

*This acts like the law of gravity. Picture a coin falling to the ground because it is heavier than the air. As the coin is falling, you reach out with your arm and catch the coin with your hand - defying the law of gravity. This is what the law of the Spirit does for us.

1. The law was weak because its strength was dependent upon the flesh for its fulfillment. This meant the law cannot sanctify you, because the flesh is weak.

Romans 8:3 - For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Romans 3:20 - Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

2. In the last part of this verse, "God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh...", is saying that Jesus came in the flesh, just like ours - except His flesh was sinless.

- a. Christ lived for some 33 years in a body of flesh without ever once yielding to a sinful thought, speaking an improper word or committing a wrongful act.

- b. God condemned sin in the flesh of His Son, by taking our sin upon Himself.

II Corinthians 5:21 - For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

3. Our sin was judged in Christ's flesh. His sinless body bore our sins, fulfilling God's plan and purpose. What the law could not do, in that man was weak - Jesus Christ did.

1. When one is saved, a change of lifestyle happens in their life. Their viewpoint and desires in life are

Romans 8:4 - That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

different, because the miracle of Christ indwelling the believer, means the life that Jesus lived can now be reproduced in us by the Holy Spirit.

*As we turn over the control of our lives to the Spirit, He empowers us to love God and to love our neighbors.

2. It is easy to drag the Mosaic Law into the Dispensation of Grace that we are in today. We operate strictly on the basis of grace and believers are not under the Law today.

3. Here are some of the reasons why:

- a. Believers have been put to death to the Law and joined to Christ.

Romans 7:4 - Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

- b. Believers have been freed from the law.

Romans 7:6 - But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

- c. Christ has annulled the Law.

Ephesians 2:15 - Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

4. This we can do if we walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

1. If one's mind continually thinks upon the desires of the flesh, it will shape their actions and behavior that fulfills their sin desires.

*This is the unconverted, controlled by their flesh and living the desires of the corrupt nature (the old

Romans 8:5 - 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.

Adam - sin nature).

2. But, if one focuses and concentrates on God's Word, their mind is in tune with spiritual truths.

*Now they are in position to have the capacity and desire to be taught and led in this new behavior.

3. This verse gives us the best definition of the two walks we have in life - to walk in the Spirit or to walk in flesh.

Romans 8:6 - For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

1. The carnal mind can be of a believer and of the unsaved person. It is a fleshly mindset. There is only one-way to avoid the mistakes made by the carnal mind and that is to have the "mind of Christ".

Philippians 2:5 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

I Corinthians 2:16 - For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

2. When we walk in the Spirit and do not allow the old nature in our flesh to control us, then our thought patterns follow the Spirit.

1. When we live in the flesh (being carnally minded), we are living and behaving just like a lost person. Sins

Romans 8:7 - Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

in our flesh are opposed to spiritual truths that God wants us to walk in.

2. The flesh never changes or submits to God's truths. The carnal mind is enmity against God. The sinner is a rebel against God and not subject to the law of God. It wants its own will and not God's will.
1. When we were lost and lived carnal lives, we could never please God. To be controlled by the flesh makes it impossible to please God. God will not accept that kind of lifestyle.

Romans 8:8 - So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

2. This is why believers need to not walk in the flesh. We are still sinners, but the Holy Spirit's strength can help us to do God's will in our life.
1. This verse distinguishes between the saved person and the unsaved. The unsaved person does not have the Holy Spirit indwelling in him and therefore is lost.

Romans 8:9 - But ye 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.

Ephesians 1:13 - In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

2. Paul's point is that believers, because of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives, should be living differently instead of living in the flesh.
1. Because of our identification in Christ, we are dead to sin and alive to God. We now have this perfect righteousness given to us by Christ.

Romans 8:10 - And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

II Corinthians 5:21 - For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2. The Spirit is the believer's life - having Christ in our life and living the divine life by receiving God's grace.

Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

1. Even though our body is sinful and full of death, the Spirit is going to make our dying, mortal body come alive to accomplish God's will.

II Corinthians 4:11 - For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

2. A mortal body (unlike a dead body) is the one we live in now. It is susceptible to death, but is not dead yet. The Holy Spirit indwelling in us will give us the strength to live the Christian life while here on earth.