

Bible Basics Conference 2019

No Condemnation

Romans 8:1-11

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Overview

- New position: in Christ (v. 1)
- Hence, God does not condemn us (v. 1)
 - Even though sin continues to dwell in us now – God has already condemned sin (v. 3)
- Holy Spirit dwells in us
 - He occupies us with Christ
 - In this way, law of the Spirit -> Christ reproduced in us
- Warnings re the flesh and walking according to flesh (vv. 5-8)
- Culmination of deliverance – at the Lord's return (v. 11)

Introduction

- Experiences of chapter 7:
 - *I try to do right, but I can't*
 - *There is nothing good in me (naturally speaking)*
- Conclusions of chapter 7:
 - *I don't get any help looking within*
 - *I need to look outside myself – to Christ*

'In Christ Jesus' (v. 1)

- Summary
- And answer to:
 - *troubled thoughts regarding walk*
 - *troubled thoughts regarding salvation*
- Our position: *'in Christ Jesus'**

** The remaining words in some translations should not be present.*

Note how He is referred to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ God's anointed○ In the glory	We are <u>in Him</u>
Can anyone condemn such a person in such a place?	Can anyone condemn us?

'In Christ Jesus' (v. 1)

- Note also Paul's absolute statement: no condemnation
- Even God Himself finds nothing to condemn in us

The law of the Spirit (v. 2)

- John 20:22: the Lord Jesus gave His life (in resurrection) to the disciples
- Same *'life in Christ Jesus'* is given to us
- Capacity to be an imitator of Christ – even in His obedience

The law of the Spirit (v. 2)

- Also power: the Spirit*
- Holy Spirit operates in conjunction with that life
- '*Law*' of the Spirit = the result of His operating in each of us
- '*Law of sin and of death*'
 - ≠ Old Testament law
 - Source from which our walk originated as unbelievers (sin)
 - End of such a walk (death)
- First outcome of the working of the Holy Spirit in us:
set ... free from the law of sin and of death

* Spirit is referred to 17+ times in chapter 8.

The law of the Spirit (v. 2)



But remember: law of Spirit sets us free from the other law

The law of the Spirit (v. 2)



What if the law of the Spirit is not operative?

Condemnation of sin (v. 3)

- Law is holy, just and good (Rom. 7:12)
- One limitation of the law:
 - It applied to human beings
 - There is no good in anyone by nature (7:18)
 - Hence, law was limited in what it could achieve – i.e. ‘*weak*’
 - In particular, could not:
 - engender righteousness in anyone*
 - produce the manner and content of life described in following verses

* Note also Romans 3:20 and Galatians 2:16.

Condemnation of sin (v. 3)

- Again, God intervened
- He sent His Son:
 - The one who was most precious to Him
 - One who was God – and was therefore also righteous
 - One who did no sin (1 Pet. 2:22)
 - One in whom there was no sin (1 John 3:5)
 - I.e. nothing deserving of condemnation in or in connection with Him

Condemnation of sin (v. 3)

- He sent Him:
 - To be a substitute for us
 - In likeness of our flesh (which is a flesh of sin) – but not identical to it
 - But He was sin apart (Luke 1:35; Heb. 4:15)
 - ‘*For sin*’ – i.e. to deal with it – as a sin offering
 - For condemnation of sin
 - Sin (the root cause of all unrighteousness) cannot be forgiven by God
 - It can only be condemned

Condemnation of sin (v. 3)

- Condemnation of sin occurred on the cross
- Involved the Lord Jesus suffering (*'in the flesh'*) in our place
- The holy one who knew no sin was made sin (2 Cor. 5:21)

Walking according to Spirit (v. 4)

- As a result of Christ's death, should be practical outcomes in our walk*
- Further outcome of the working of the Holy Spirit in us:
'the righteous requirement of the law should be fulfilled in us' (v. 4)
- God's Spirit could not lead us contrary to God's law
- But the law is not the standard or limit for our walk
- Grace goes further (e.g. Matt. 5:43-44)
- So does the life of Christ in us
- Note: this is more than a rule for life (see v. 5)

** Verse 4 concerns practical matters. Hence, the words referring to our walk are appropriate here.*

Series of twos

(a)	v. 4	Walk according to flesh	Walk according to Spirit	Practice
(b)	v. 5	Are according to flesh	Are according to Spirit	
(c)	v. 6	Mind of the flesh	Mind of the Spirit	
(d)	vv. 8-9	<u>In</u> flesh	<u>In</u> Spirit	Position
(e)	v. 9	Do not have the Spirit of Christ	God's Spirit <u>indwells</u>	

Walking according to Spirit (v. 4)

≠ thinking about Holy Spirit

> being led by Spirit (although this is important – Galatians 5)

= being occupied with Christ – one Spirit wants to present to us
(see also v. 5)

Minding the things of the Spirit (v. 5)

- Negative side (walking according to flesh) may be readily understood
 - But note it is '*flesh*', not 'the flesh'
 - If 'flesh' is the guide rather than the Spirit, mind will only be on things of the flesh
 - Outcome will be works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-22)

Minding the things of the Spirit (v. 5)

- What are the *'things of the Spirit'*?
- Spirit does not speak of Himself
- Rather, bears witness of Christ (John 15:26)
- Again, minding things of the Spirit is not merely a rule of life
- We are to set our minds on these things (Col. 3:2)
- Doing so will lead to Christ being reproduced in us
 - A more fruitful outcome for God than the law could achieve

Mind of the Spirit (v. 6)

- *'Mind of the flesh'* is death (morally and spiritually)
- *'Mind of the Spirit'* is:
 - Life – all the blessings of eternal life
 - Peace:
 - Peace with God
 - Peace in all circumstances
 - Etc.

Mind of the flesh, in flesh (vv. 6-7)

- Mind of the flesh is absolutely against God:
 - At enmity with Him
 - Not subject to His law
- Also absolutely hopeless: cannot be subject to God's law
- Hence, one who is '*in flesh*' can never please God

In Spirit (v. 9)

- 'If' is not an 'if' of doubt, but of logic:
God's Spirit is in you → you are in Spirit, not flesh
- God's Spirit dwells in us (see also Eph. 1:6; Rom. 8:11)
- Hence, '*in Spirit*' is always our position

In Spirit (v. 9)

In flesh	In Spirit
• At enmity with God	• Reconciled (Rom. 5:10) and at perfect peace with God (v. 1)
• Not subject to His law	• Loves to keep His commandments (1 John 2:3; 5:3)
○ <u>Cannot</u> be subject to God's law	• Capable of walking righteously (Rom. 8:2, 4)
○ <u>Can (and will) never</u> please Him	• Can <u>only</u> keep God's commandments and please Him (1 John 3:22)

Three bodies

Experience (ch. 7)	Reality for believer now (deliverance)	Blessing for believer in future (culmination of deliverance)
<i>'Body of death'</i> – experience of principle of sin operating in us (Nothing positive)	Body is dead, because of sin (Rom. 8:10) Holy Spirit is our life	Life will be given to our mortal bodies (v. 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will be done by one who raised Christ from among the dead• Hence will be a great change (1 Cor. 15:42-57; Phil. 3:21)
	Because of God's righteousness	Because His Spirit already dwells in us (Rom. 8:11) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dwells in us now by grace• Encouragement to know we will – in every respect – be fit for Him to indwell us forever