

**“NO CONDEMNATION”
ROMANS 8:1-12**

Life Through the Spirit

8 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation (punishment, serving out a sentence, penal servitude) for those who are in Christ Jesus,* **2 because through Christ Jesus** the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, **God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh** to be a sin offering. **And so he condemned sin in the flesh,** **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, **who do not live according to the flesh** but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6 The mind governed by the flesh is death,** but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. **7 The mind governed by the flesh** is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. **8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.**

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. **11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you,** he who raised Christ from the

dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, **we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.** **13** For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; **but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.**

Complete Jewish Bible

Revelation 12:10 **(the accuser of the brethren)**

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, “Now have come God’s victory, power and kingship, and the authority of his Messiah; because **the Accuser of our brothers, who accuses them day and night before God,** has been thrown out!

1Corinthians 4 (I do not judge myself)

4 This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. **2** Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. **3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.** **4** My conscience is clear, **but that does not make me innocent.** It is the Lord who judges me.

5 **Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes.** He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and **will expose the motives of the heart.** At that time each will receive their praise from God.

**1 John 3:7-9 (the person who keeps on sinning)
(Complete Jewish Bible)**

7 Children, don't let anyone deceive you — **it is the person that keeps on doing what is right who is righteous**, just as God is righteous. 8 **The person who keeps on sinning is from the Adversary, because from the very beginning the Adversary has kept on sinning.** It was for this very reason that the Son of God appeared, to destroy these doings of the Adversary. 9 **No one who has God as his Father keeps on sinning, because the seed planted by God remains in him. That is, he cannot continue sinning, because he has God as his Father.**

John 8:32-34 (practicing sin)

32 you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered, “We are the seed of Avraham and **have never been slaves to anyone**; so what do you mean by saying, ‘You will be set free’?” 34 Yeshua answered them, “**Yes, indeed! I tell you that everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin.**

John 8

Complete Jewish Bible (Woman in adultery)

8 But Yeshua went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At daybreak, he appeared again in the Temple Court, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The *Torah*-teachers and the *P'rushim* brought in a woman who had been caught committing adultery and made her stand in the center of the group. 4 Then they said to him, “Rabbi, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5 Now in our *Torah*, Moshe commanded that such a woman be stoned to death. What do you say about it?” 6 They said this to trap him, so that they might have ground for bringing

charges against him; but Yeshua bent down and began writing in the dust with his finger. 7 When they kept questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “The one of you who is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Then he bent down and wrote in the dust again. 9 On hearing this, they began to leave, one by one, the older ones first, until he was left alone, with the woman still there. 10 Standing up, Yeshua said to her, “Where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, sir.” Yeshua said, “Neither do I condemn you. Now go, and don’t sin any more.”

Zechariah 3 (The priest with filthy garments)

Clean Garments for the High Priest

3 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan[a] standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”

3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.”

Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”

5 Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.

6 The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: 7 “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.’”

We live in a culture of accusation and condemnation

Sometimes the most liberal are the ones who accuse the most

Ironically, this culture that avidly cultivates counseling, psychology and psychiatry, personal insight, is the most burdened by neurosis, accusation and self accusation.

We place great burdens on ourselves because of all the insight that we have acquired about human motives and hidden mental mechanisms.

We are always second guessing ourselves and are extremely self-conscious and excessively harsh on ourselves.

The Bible teaches a lot on guilt. How to handle and manage it. How to overcome it.

If not dealt with well, guilt can debilitate and even paralyze us.

Guilt from **past mistakes**. Guilt from the present **consequences of past sins on our children, ourselves;**

even collective **sins committed by our forefathers** on a national scale.

Five sources of condemnation:

- 1) **God (the Law) condemns** those who are not in Christ
- 2) **Satan condemns us** (**How** does he do this?; **what methods** does he employ?)
- 3) **Others condemn us** (we should be convinced of who we are in Christ; have a healthy self esteem; **pastors** often suffer from this)
- 4) **We condemn ourselves** for sins and past mistakes
- 5) **We condemn others** (We will be measured with the same measure)

How we **deal with guilt on an ongoing basis** can make the difference between **a healthy, balanced outlook and one that is depressive**, debilitating and self-destructive.

Romans 8:1-13 is the finest exposition on guilt, punishment and justification through Christ in the entire Bible.

Here we have a nuanced, balanced teaching on this subject.

Read the passage.

Before Romans 8, Paul has just finished indicting himself in chapter 7, admitting his absolutely sinful condition and his incapacity to live a life that is holy and pleasing to God.

He realizes that only in Christ is there hope for him. Only in Christ can he find freedom from guilt.

In chapter 8 he establishes how freedom from condemnation, guilt and the deadly consequences of sin can be obtained and maintained.

In Romans 8 we are talking about a complex mechanism, of interlocking, interacting parts. One depends on the other.

1) **Jesus' death on the Cross** *in our stead* as the basis of our justification and forgiveness.

2) Our **identifying personally with Christ** in his death and resurrection; appropriating his justice for ourselves

3) **Remaining in Christ** as the source of our life and spiritual sustenance (*“those who are in Christ”*; v.1, v. 10)

(John 15:4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.)

4) Putting our **first priority on serving the Kingdom** and Christ, not the things of the world.

Colossians 3

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[b] 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

5) **Remaining mindful, focused, on the things of God.** Yielding our life totally to Him. Serving Him and obeying Him with all our heart. **Focusing on our spiritual growth, on a life of service to God.**

6) **Living the life of a disciple:** total obedience; self-sacrifice; complete consecration, single mindedness in the things of the Kingdom and the Spirit.

7) **Seeking after holiness** with all our heart. Separation; continual sanctification

(See Romans 12:1-3)

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God**—this is your true and proper worship.

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

8) Abstaining from sin as a practice (habitual, insistent)

9) Keeping short accounts with God and those around us, especially other believers. Confessing and seeking forgiveness from God and others.

10) Trusting actively on the mercy, compassion and forgiveness of the Father

(Psalms 103)

13

*As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;*

14

*for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.*

As we become aware of these principles and practice them, making them the foundation of our lives, it becomes possible to live a fulfilling life, one that is holy, pleasing to God, and free from condemnation and guilt.