

(1) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the Law --- weakened by the flesh --- could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us...who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit!

(5) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

(7) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's Law; indeed, *it cannot*. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

(9) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit...if, in fact, the Spirit of God dwells in you! Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does NOT belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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 dwells in you.

(12) So then, brothers, we are debtors --- not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh *you will die*, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

(15) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and, if children, then heirs --- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ --- provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

Think on These Things

- 1) Are you a sinner? **Expect "yes" answers (Romans 3:23), perhaps with "saved by grace"!**
- 2) Are you condemned to a sinner's eternal death in hell? Can you know for sure? How?

People who have confessed and repented of sin, and then put their faith in Jesus to save them, should be comfortable saying "no, I'm not going to hell; I'm going to heaven." Those who are unsaved remain under the wrath of God and should be fearful of the judgment to come (...but they probably are not afraid! --- See **Romans 1:18 and **Revelation 20:11-15**)**

Can we be certain of our eternal fate? Paul believes "yes, we can." In Christ we no longer stand condemned. We have been "set free" and received the Spirit as God's children.

- 3) Paul says this was "impossible" for the law to accomplish for us (v. 3). What undermined the law? What does he say God did to fix this tragic situation?

God's Law --- His perfect standards --- were meant to lead to life, BUT, weakened by sinful human flesh, all humanity now stands condemned by the Law. Man was incapable of saving himself. Rather, God sent His Son, Jesus --- in the flesh --- to condemn sin in the flesh for everyone. Instead of condemnation, the "righteous requirement" of the Law has been fulfilled in we who no longer walk (live) in the flesh, but walk according to the Holy Spirit.

- 4) In vs. 6-8, what three phrases are used to describe the “mind set on the flesh?” From v. 7, what is the real cause of these negative adjectives?

Phrase 1 – **V. 6 the mind set on the flesh is ‘death.’**

Phrase 2 – **V. 7 the mind set on the flesh is ‘hostile towards God.’**

Phrase 3 – **V. 8 the mind set on the flesh ‘cannot please God.’**

Root Cause? **The mind set on the flesh DOES NOT SUBMIT to God’s Law. (Opposes, resists...)**

- 5) The opening phrase of v. 9 helps to clarify the distinction between a believer and a non-believer. What is the difference? Take a look at these scriptures: John 3:1-6; Ephesians 1:11-14. How does v. 9 end regarding people who do not have the Spirit of God within them? How does this make you feel? It kind of puts the kibosh on “*playing church*” ..., doesn’t it?!

What distinguishes a true believer? **A true believer knows and recognizes that God, the Holy Spirit, abides within him/her. Jesus was “God with us.” The Holy Spirit is “God within us.” (John 14:17) John 3 is Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus, when He tells him he must be ‘born again.’ He explains that re(new)-birth is the work of the Spirit. Ephesians teaches that when one responds to hearing the Word of Truth, the Gospel, by believing in Jesus, God will ‘seal’ us with the Holy Spirit, who is also our GUARANTEE of inheriting eternal life.**

No Spirit? **Anyone who does not have the Holy Spirit...does NOT belong to Him!**

My thought --- **We are simply hoping that class members will take some kind of personal inventory or assessment. If they have doubts that they have been born again and now live daily with the Spirit inside them, they may need scriptural counsel and guidance about belief in Jesus and the required new birth.**

- 6) If our obligation is not to live according to the flesh, what are we obligated to do (v. 12)? What if we can’t do this, if we continue to live according to the flesh (v. 13)? Who helps us to “put to death” the deeds of the body (v. 13)?

Obligated to...? **In context (vs. 9-11), our DEBT is to God, who raised Jesus by the Spirit and will raise us in righteousness by the same Spirit! We must live according to the Spirit.**

Live by the flesh? **If we continue to live by the flesh, we will die (in our sins to be judged)!**

Who helps us? **The Holy Spirit**

- 7) Name the blessings from vs. 15-17 for those who are not under God’s condemnation.

We receive adoption as God’s children, privileged to cry out intimately, “Abba” (familiar, like ‘Daddy’) and “Father.” We receive Holy Spirit confirmation within ourselves that we belong to God, and we learn that now we are fellow heirs of God’s glories along with Jesus.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: