

Why God Became Man

3. To Condemn Sin In The Flesh

Romans 8:1-4

Introduction

Satan is our accuser. He will often attack us with feelings of guilt, in order to make us drift from God or try to earn our standing with God.

At times like this it's crucial to have passages which clearly teach what God has done for us in Christ, and how through faith alone we can be completely forgiven. One of those passages is Romans 8:1-4 —

What does it mean that there is no condemnation? (v.1)

Romans 6:23 shows that our sin deserves the eternal death of separation and punishment from God. This is the condemnation that we have been under.

But Paul says those who are in Christ Jesus have no condemnation, no eternal death, no punishment from God. just outpourings of God's love now and the joy of being with him forever. But this is only true for those who are in Christ Jesus, so —

How can we tell if we are in Christ Jesus? (v.2)

It's because everyone who trusts Christ, who is in Christ, has received the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit sets us free from the law — the power — of sin.

He does this by giving us such a taste of Jesus' glory that from then on we want nothing more than Jesus' glory and we live for nothing more than Jesus' glory.

This does not make us perfect. But it changes us from the inside out.

How can a just God free us from condemnation? (v.3)

He sent his own Son in the likeness of flesh, so he could condemn *our* sin in *his* flesh.

So the moment we trust Christ, all our sin was condemned in his death on the Cross.

Which means there is no more condemnation for us.

What results from having our sins condemned in Jesus? (v.4)

Some people think it's possible to be forgiven for your sins, but keep living the way you've always lived.

This verse shows that's not possible.

Because God's purpose for condemning your sins in Christ was *so that* you would fulfill the law — be obedient to him.

This happens because everyone who has faith and is forgiven receives the Spirit, who gives us such a taste of Jesus' glory that we are changed (not perfectly, but substantially)

And because we see this change, we can know that there is no condemnation for us — because of Christ Jesus.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What questions did Sunday's teaching raise in your mind?

How often do you feel attacked with pangs of guilt for things you have done in the past? How have you responded to these attacks? How did Romans 8:1-4 help you?

How precious is it that there is no condemnation for you? Have you had times when it's been more precious? What's different now?

Share what you experienced when the Holy Spirit enabled you, for the first time, to see and feel Jesus' glory. What are some ways that set you free from the power of sin?

Does it make sense that by condemning your sin in Jesus' flesh, that means there's no more condemnation for you? Why or why not?

Do you really believe that God has condemned all of your sin in Jesus' flesh? Why is that so important to believe? What makes that hard to believe? On what basis do we believe it?

What was God doing in your heart during Communion?

What is the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart through this passage?

