



A New Direction With No Condemnation

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Introduction

The eighth chapter of Epistle to the Romans is often called the “mountain peak” of the New Testament. After describing humanity’s struggle with sin in chapter 7, the Apostle Paul begins chapter 8 with one of the most liberating declarations in this text. These verses present three great truths for every believer:

1. A New Position Of No Condemnation
2. A New Power For Freedom Through the Spirit
3. A New Purpose Of Living Righteously

Let us examine these truths carefully.

1. A New Position Of No Condemnation in Christ

Romans 8:1 says “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” The word *condemnation* refers to a legal verdict — the sentence of guilt and punishment. In Christ, that verdict has been overturned. This begs the question Why has the verdict been overturned? The answer is captured in these two points:

(a) The Problem of Condemnation

Scripture clearly teaches that every human being is guilty before God.

- **Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”
- **Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Sin carries a sentence for spiritual death and separation from God, but there is a good news side to the story.

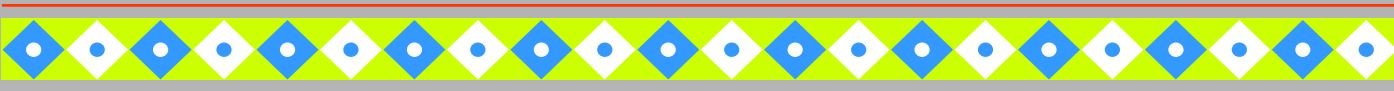
(b) The Deliverance Through Christ

Christ took that condemnation upon Himself, as confirmed in these scriptures:

- **Isaiah 53:5** “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”
- **John 3:17** “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

Through faith in Christ, believers stand justified before God.

Consider the story of the woman caught in adultery in **John 8:10–11** “When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither



do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” Jesus removed condemnation — but also called her to a new life.

In modern legal systems, when a court acquits a defendant, the charges are removed and the individual is free to live without the penalty hanging over them. Yet the difference with Christ is even greater: He not only removes the sentence, He transforms the person. The Christian life begins with this wonderful truth: **we are not living to avoid condemnation, but rather we are living because condemnation has already been removed.**

2. A New Power For Freedom Through the Spirit

Romans 8:2 says: “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Two “laws” are contrasted in this scripture:

1. The law of sin and death
2. The law of the Spirit of life

Let’s consider each in turn:

(a) The Law of Sin and Death

The law of sin enslaves humanity as confirmed in these scriptures:

- **John 8:34** “Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.” This is why human effort alone cannot save us.
- **Romans 7:18** “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

(b) The Law of the Spirit of Life

The Holy Spirit breaks sin’s power.

- **2 Corinthians 3:17** “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”
- **Galatians 5:16** “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

The Christian life is not merely about willpower — it is about **Spirit power**. Just as the law of aerodynamics overcomes gravity and allows an aeroplane to fly, the law of the Spirit lifts the believer above the downward pull of sin. Gravity still exists, but another power overcomes it. Likewise, sin still exists, but the Spirit enables us to rise above it.

Consider Peter the Apostle. He once denied Christ. **Luke 22:61–62** says - “And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.” Yet after the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, Peter preached boldly and thousands were saved. **Acts 2:41** says “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” The Spirit changed a fearful fisherman into a fearless preacher.

3. A New Purpose Of Living Righteously

Christ did not merely forgive us — He enables us to live differently. **Romans 8:3–4** says “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: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” These verses highlight three salient truths as discussed below:



(a) The Law Could Not Save

The Mosaic law revealed sin but could not remove it. **Romans 3:20** says “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.”

(b) Christ Condemned Sin

God solved the problem through Christ as confirmed in **2 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.”

(c) The Goal Is A Transformed Life

The Christian life is not simply forgiveness — it is transformation as described in these scriptures:

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- **Matthew 5:16** “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Consider John Newton, author of the hymn *Amazing Grace*. Newton was once a slave trader, deeply involved in the brutality of the slave trade. After encountering Christ, his life changed dramatically. He became a minister and later worked with William Wilberforce to fight for the abolition of slavery. The grace that forgives is also the grace that transforms.

Conclusion: Walking After the Spirit

Romans 8:1–4 challenges every believer with a profound question: **Are we walking after the flesh, or after the Spirit?** The gospel gives us:

- A new position — no condemnation
- A new power — the Spirit’s freedom
- A new purpose — righteous living

Let us close with this encouraging promise in **Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

God’s Final Challenge To Us Are:

- Live in the freedom Christ has provided.
- Walk in the Spirit daily.
- Demonstrate the righteousness of God in your life. Because in Christ Jesus — **there is now no condemnation.**