

A TEXTUAL ISSUE

A BIBLICAL EVALUATION:

Romans 7:6 (ESV)

6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the **new way of the Spirit** and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 8:1–4 (ESV)

There is **therefore** now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has **set you free in Christ Jesus** from the law of sin and death. 3 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, 4 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.

therefore

now

no

condemnation

In Christ

A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPLICATION:

1. Apart from the power of God, our self-image has been shaped by the communities where we grew up, and continues to be shaped by our present communities.
2. Every one of us is a part of the community shaping the self-images of others.
3. One of the marks of Christian maturity is the development of our self-image separate from our communities (whether positive or negative), experiencing our identity only in Christ.
4. In Christ, we have been freed from condemnation both from others and from ourselves.
 - * When we condemn ourselves, we deny our true Identity.
 - * When we receive condemnation, we deny our true Identity.
 - * When we give condemnation, we do not represent Christ to others.

"I'm not who I think I am,
 I'm not who you think I am,
 I'm who I think you think I am"

1 Corinthians 4:3-4

"I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me."

A DOCTRINAL POSITION:

The Christian Is a person who has been taken entirely outside the realm of any possible or conceivable condemnation!!

- * Do you believe this?
- * How has your self-image been affected by the condemnation of others?
- * How have you affected others self-image?
- * What has been your BIG identity struggle?
- * Do you harbor a sense of shame or a guilty conscience about things for which you know you have been forgiven?

“IN CHRIST JESUS”

This is our position in Christ Jesus. Paul uses the phrase “in Christ” 167 times.

In Romans:

- redeemed (3:24),
- alive to God (6:11),
- possessors of eternal life (6:23),
- free from the law of sin and death (8:2),
- members of one spiritual body (12:5),
- sharers in Christ’s work (16:3, 9),

In Corinthians:

- sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2),
- recipients of grace (1 Cor. 1:4),
- secure in death (1 Cor. 15:18),
- bold to speak the truth (2 Cor. 2:17),
- new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17),

In Galatians:

- free (2:4),
- justified (Gal. 2:17),
- recipients of the blessings given to Abraham (3:14),
- sons of God (Gal. 3:26),
- we are one with others regardless of race, gender, or social condition (3:28),

In Ephesians:

- recipients of every spiritual blessing in heaven (1:3),
- God chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (1:4),
- God predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. (1:5),
- we are blessed in Christ (1:6),
- we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7),
- we were also chosen and predestined to conformity with the purpose of his will (1:11),
- we were included in Christ when we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation. (1:13),
- we were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, (1:13),
- God expresses in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (2:7),
- Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ (2:4-5),
- Even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved (2:5),
- and now that we are saved we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. (2:10),
- in Christ we have brought near to God (2:13),
- partakers with Jews of the promises (3:6),
- forgiven by God (4:32),

In Philippians:

- encouraged (2:1),
- at peace (4:7),
- God supplies all of our needs in Christ (Phil. 4:19),

In Thessalonians:

- anticipating the resurrection of our bodies (1 Thess. 4:16),
- we are to recognize all circumstances as God’s will in Christ. (1 Thess. 5:18),

In Timothy:

- alive (2 Tim. 1:1), and
- our salvation is in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10).