

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 2ND, 2021 // BOOK OF ROMANS

A NEW LAW (ROMANS 8:1-4)

NO CONDEMNATION

Paul's therefore in verse 1 is tied to the "thanks be to God" in 7:25. In light of what God did through his Son, there is "therefore" no condemnation or guilt for those in Christ Jesus.

- If we are a believer in Jesus, it does not matter what your heart tells you; God says you stand before him with zero condemnation or guilt.

A NEW LAW

Until now (chapter 8), Paul has been talking about the law of Moses. Here he introduces a new law – the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. There is a freedom that comes from being in Jesus Christ. Unlike Moses's law, this one can set you free from sin and death.

- **Which law you operate by determines whether you live in victory or defeat.**

TRANSCENDING THE LAW

The law of sin and death is like gravity. It permanently pulls you down, no matter how high you jump. But the law of the Spirit overrides gravity. It's like being aboard an airplane, where the laws of aerodynamics apply.

- You cannot get rid of the law of gravity, but you can transcend it. The Spirit's law transcends the law of sin so that sin no longer controls the agenda.

WALKING WITH THE SPIRIT

For the Spirit's law to apply to our lives, we must not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. The word "walk" refers to our entire way of life, and it has three concepts connected to it.

1. **Destination:** We must point our lives toward the will and glory of God.
2. **Dependence:** When we must rest all of the weight of our soul on God's power and not our own.
3. **Dedication:** We must continually take steps, consistently calling on God to do in us what we could never do by ourselves.

NEW LIFE (ROMANS 8:5-11)

SETTING OUR MINDS

If we have a problem with our walk, the problem is not in our feet. It's in our minds! If we have our minds set on the things of the flesh, we will live according to the flesh (v. 5). If we set our minds on the things of the Spirit, we will live according to the Spirit. If our minds are set on the wrong things, our feet will automatically go the wrong way.

- Setting your mind is like choosing a television station. You can watch channel 2 or 6, but you can not watch channels 2 and 6 at the same time. You have 2 different channels – one that leads to death and one that leads to life and peace. And God says, "Choose life!"

RAISED FROM THE DEAD

When you became a Christian, the Spirit of God came to live in you. The Spirit cannot dwell with sin, so He kicked the sin out of its place of authority in our lives. Now where did sin go? It took up residency in our body, which still is dead because of sin. It's dead, it's unresponsive.

- When we try to "be better" for God by getting more religious, we are kicking that dead body and trying to get it moving. Here's the reality: it won't move. We become alive, not by telling our dead bodies to live, but by letting the Spirit do to us what He did for Jesus – raising Him from the dead.

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT

If his Spirit lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal body to life. We have a new power within us: the Spirit is like an engine in a car that can take us where God wants us to go.

- **But too many of us are trying to push the car of life around, when God wants us to let the engine or the Spirit do the work.**

FAMILY (ROMANS 8:12-17)

OVERCOMING OUR FLESH

Paul wants us to kick the flesh to the curb so that we can experience the abundant life God has promised (v. 13). We can overcome the discouragement of a bad marriage, or singleness, or financial stress because He Who is in us is "**greater than the one who is in the world**" (1 John 4:4)!

- Jesus promised that we would have trouble, but He also promised to give us overflowing life in the midst of it.

ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY

"If we walk according to the Spirit as God desires, we prove ourselves to be God's sons" (v.14). Not only are we sons and daughters, but we are adopted children

- If a person was adopted in Paul's time, that individual immediately received all of the rights of an adult heir. The chief right that Paul mentions here is intimacy with God. We therefore can pray, Abba, Father. Abba is a term of intimacy meaning "Papa" or "Daddy." We can say it with complete assurance that God is listening.

A RESPONSIBILITY

Being adopted as God's children may come with extreme benefits, but it also carries with it intense responsibility.

- Yes, we are already heirs of God, but we can only become coheirs with Christ if we suffer with Him. If we fall back in the day of trials, we'll lose something valuable. We cannot lose our salvation, but we can certainly lose some of the rewards God intends to give us.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

- Because the gospel of Christ gives us a new way of life, the Holy Spirit helps us to live that life out. No more guilt.
- Are we living a life free from the power or control of sin? We need the Holy Spirit.
- Because of the Holy Spirit, we should walk in a freedom knowing that we are children of God.