

Batteries Included!

(Life in the Spirit)

Romans—Living by Faith (part 7)

Romans 8:1-17

Review:

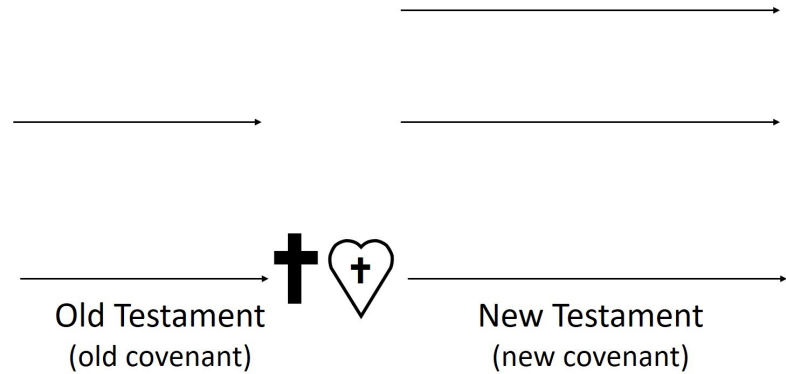
- ☞ **Romans 1:1-17** The major theme of the book of Romans is the gospel: how a person can attain right standing with God
- ☞ **Romans 1:18-3:20** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- ☞ **Romans 3:21-5:21** We are justified (declared righteous) by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, NOT by keeping the law, NOR by any good works, NOR by any religious affiliation, NOR by any religious activity
- ☞ **Romans 6:1-23**
 - Died to sin
 - Our old man/self is crucified with Christ
 - Sin is no longer master over us
- ☞ **Romans 7:1-25**

No Condemnation (Romans 8:1-4^a)

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was

^aSome have said that the main theme of this chapter is the assurance of the believer, not how a person can experience victory over sin (sanctification). But I agree with John Stott, that the two are intimately related. So I think Paul is addressing both issues here.

powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh^b to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.



☞ **Action Point: Live free from condemnation & guilt!**

^bWe use the term “incarnation” to refer to Jesus taking on human flesh. “Chili con carne” means chili with meat (carne= meat or flesh). So the incarnation was God taking on human flesh. Paul says “sinful flesh” b/c he wants us to know that Jesus actually became human. It wasn’t that Jesus only looked human, he actually did become one of us. So Jesus was 100% God, but also 100% human. But Paul specifically uses the word “likeness” b/c he doesn’t want us to think that Jesus actually sinned—Jesus was sinless.

*Note: As we explained last week, when we say that the Jews were “under the law” during the time of the Old Testament, we do not mean that they were saved by keeping the law. They too were saved by faith in the promise of the future Messiah. Rather being “under the law” means that they were under the law’s constant condemnation since it reminded them of how far short they fell. If you missed last week, we encourage you to listen to last Sunday’s message.

**“Died to the law” does not mean we are no longer morally obligated to keep the moral and ethical commands contained in the Mosaic Law. Because these commands are based on God’s character, and God’s character does not change, we are still obligated to keep those commands. However, our motivation for obedience is totally different. No longer do we fear the condemnation of the law, but rather we obey God out of gratitude and out of a desire to glorify Him.

^c In chapter 7, the word “law” and its synonyms are mentioned some 31 times, but the Holy Spirit only once. But in the first 27 verses of chapter 8, the Holy Spirit is referred to 19 times by name!

Life in His Spirit (Romans 8:1-11)

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit ^c who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

☞ The Indwelling Spirit (Romans 8:9-11)

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you^d.

Why does Paul call this the law of the Spirit? Just as the people lived under the Mosaic Law, now we live under a new law—the Law of the Spirit. So just as the rule of authority in the Old Testament was the Mosaic Law, now we live under the rule or authority of the Holy Spirit. In addition, remember in Jeremiah 31:33 where Jeremiah says:

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Ezekiel 11:19-20

¹⁹ “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ²⁰ Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.”

In this new life in the Spirit, the Spirit of God now writes God’s laws on our hearts. In other words, we change from the inside out. The Spirit changes us from within and so our attitudes and actions change outwardly.

^dJust as the Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, so too He will raise us from the dead as well. That’s what Paul was referring to when he said in v. 2, that the law of the Spirit has set you free from the law of death. Again, death will not have ultimate victory b/c the Spirit of God will raise us from the dead!

^eTechnically, Paul is contrasting the unbeliever in the flesh with the believer who is walking in the power of the Spirit. This is a reminder that the Spirit-filled life (i.e.-surrendering to the Spirit’s authority, trusting in His power, and following His lead) is not something that only super-

☞ The Empowering Spirit (Romans 8:5-13)

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death^e, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit....

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

☞ Action Point: Walk in the Spirit & He will transform you

- Walking in the Spirit is surrendering to the Spirit’s authority, trusting in His power, and following His lead

☞ New Identity (Romans 8:14-17)

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- What to read for next week: Romans 8:18-30

spiritual believers experience. Nor is it something only mature believers do. Rather walking in the Spirit is really the normal Christian life for all true believers. For Paul, those who claim to be Christ-followers but are not walking in the power of the Spirit are an anomaly. But even though the contrast made here is between unbelievers vs. believers, Paul’s exhortation for us as Christ-followers is to walk in the power of the Spirit to overcome the deeds of the flesh (Romans 8:13).