

Standing in the Security of His Grace
The Spirit of Life

Introduction: The highest peak in a range of mountains is one metaphor used to extol Romans 8—the final chapter of this series. (NOTE: Varied riches of God’s Word make such comparisons precarious but Romans 8 deserves to be put in the front of the line for its rich and comprehensive portrayal of what it means to be a Christian!)

Prominence of Holy Spirit in Romans 8

- Pneuma occurs 21 times in Romans 8 and all but two, (v. 15a and 16b) refer to the Holy Spirit
- Spirit mentioned almost once every two verses (closes competitor—1 Corinthians 12—one time per 3 verses)
- Blessings and privileges conferred on the believer by the Spirit is the great theme
- In a single word—ASSURANCE
- Godet—“From” no condemnation (1) to “no separation” (39)

Four Major Sections

- Spirit of Life—(1-13)
- Spirit of Adoption—(14-17)
- Spirit of Glory—(18-30)
- Celebration of Believer’s Security—(31-39)

The Spirit of Life (1-13)

- Paul reasserts triumphant conclusion of 5:12-21 that those who are “in Christ” have eternal life rather than death and condemnation like those in Adam.
- Here, the Spirit now plays a dominant role as Paul takes off on earlier comments.

But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. Romans 7:6 NKJV

- Spirit gives us victory over the power of the flesh, rescues us from captivity to sin and death, both physical and spiritual, and by accomplishing what the law could not do, enables the law to be fulfilled in believers!

Five Movements:

I. No Condemnation

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1 NKJV

A. The counterpart

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 NKJV

1. This is positive declaration
2. No condemnation is negative counterpart

B. This certainty has full force because of Christ's work

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh. Romans 8:3 NKJV

C. Later in the chapter he will argue

1. No one can accuse us because God has justified us (33)
2. No one can condemn us because Christ died, was raised, now seated at the Father's right hand interceding (34)

D. Our justification and its "corollary" truth of no condemnation are securely grounded in what God has done for us in and through Jesus Christ!

II. Law's Demand Fulfilled

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:2-5 NKJV

A. Transfer of realm

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2 NKJV

1. “Law of Spirit of Life in Christ” AND “Law of sin and death.”
 - a. Law is nomos (often Torah)
 - b. But can also mean “power, principle, binding authority.”

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Romans 3:27 NKJV

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. Romans 7:21 NKJV

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. Romans 7:23 NKJV

2. Principle of authority of Life in Christ through the Holy Spirit has liberated me from the principle of authority of sin that leads to death.
3. Realm transfer—set free by the Spirit from realm ruled by sin
 - a. Includes justification—penalty of sin
 - b. Also sanctification

B. Realm transfer because Christ condemned sin

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NOTE: Believers are not condemned because in Christ sin has been condemned.

1. Weakness of the law (Torah)
 - a. Couldn't break sin
 - b. Had no power to deal with human's flesh
 - c. Not condemning law

(ILL)—Luther—sick man thinks wine will cure him but doctor says will make him sicker. Not condemning wine, just saying it's incapable

- d. Law could not break the power of sin and give life

2. God Himself overcame law's weakness
 - a. By sending His Son
 - b. Incarnation (fully participated in humanity—likeness of sinful flesh)
 - c. Redemption

3. On account of sin (3 of 8 times in New Testament this phrase means as a sin offering (kai peri hamartia))
4. "Condemned sin in the flesh"
 - a. The condemnation that our sins deserved was poured out on Christ
 - b. God executed His full judgment/wrath on Jesus at Calvary

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"). Galatians 3:13 NKJV

- c. That's why we have no condemnation if we are in Christ Jesus!

C. Therefore law's requirement fulfilled.

That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:4 NKJV

1. What is the righteous requirement?
 - a. Perfect fulfillment of the law's demands
 - b. Jesus did it—then took on condemnation
 - c. Transformed His righteousness to us!

2. Not only fulfills the righteous requirement but gives us the Spirit to lead our lives in obedience now.
3. This is the mark of a true Christian.
4. We live under the control of the Spirit and according to the values of the new age!

III. Walking in the Flesh or in the Spirit (5-9)

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Romans 8:5-9 NKJV

A. Paul sees those who are in the flesh as the unconverted and those who are in the Spirit as converted.

So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Romans 8:8-9 NKJV

NOTE: Which age do we belong to?

1. This is a positional statement—believers are IN THE SPIRIT and THE SPIRIT IS IN THEM
2. No matter how much grace is needed and higher experience sought after—the moment you are in Christ—you are in the Spirit and the Spirit is in you!

B. The change of realm is about the change of mind.

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1. Our mindset expresses our basic nature as Christians or non-Christians.
2. Our mindset has eternal consequences (death or life and power).
3. Our mindset concerns our fundamental attitude toward God.

NOTE: Hostile enemy to God

IV. The Life The Spirit gives does not end at the Grave

And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:10-11 NKJV

- A. Body is dead because of sin—subject to death
- B. (ILL) Adam in garden—curse
- C. Spirit is alive! Power of resurrection of body!
- D. Spirit is not overcome by mortality

IMPORTANT: Something VERY different in the eyes of God with human body—Spirit indwellings and resurrections!

V. Responsibility of Life in the Spirit

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:12-13 NKJV

A. No obligation to the flesh—we are freed slaves

- 1. Doesn't mean we won't listen on occasion
- 2. Our new position "in the Spirit" frees us from obligation

B. We do have an obligation to the Spirit

- 1. Must not eviscerate this warning!
 - a. Arminian—regenerate believer can fall back into fleshly life and lose salvation.
 - b. Calvinist—regenerate believer may fall back occasionally but not a lifestyle. Won't really struggle.
- 2. Yet—the death spoken of is eternal death
- 3. Provisions of security are so great

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 NKJV

— Finality

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1 NKJV

— Finality

4. Warning is real—a possibility if we continue not easy, simple, but a choice can be made I believe.
5. So—mortify the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit
 - a. Not sanctification by works
 - b. Human participation by an ongoing “yes” to the Spirit

Conclusion: So we conclude:

1. Spirit of life—no condemnation
2. Righteous requirement of the law fulfilled
3. We are in the Spirit—Spirit in us
4. Assured of resurrection
5. Must yield to that Spirit of life to mortify the deeds of the flesh