

Romans 8:1-18

1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.

A. There is therefore now no condemnation

1. **Therefore**- a connective word to what Paul had been saying in chapter 7. Remember this was a letter at first with no verse breakdowns.
 - a. Paul had painfully outlined the struggle and defeat of a person who tries to live the Christian life by his will power and own efforts. The result usually is the feeling of condemnation. Paul here addresses the need to eliminate condemnation in order to walk in the who we are in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. now

- a. An important word. Now means right now! There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus right this second. The good thing about this word is that when I read this in five minutes, five days, five months, five years from now it will still read now! This means we are forever free from condemnation! Jesus has born our condemnation forever! Amen!
- b. Now also refers to the present dispensation of grace in the church age. The law was a ministry of condemnation. The ministry of the spirit is a ministry of justification and righteousness by faith.

3. condemnation- Gr. *katakrima*- *to judge against with a condemnatory sentence*

- a. Jesus was condemned in our place. He bore our condemnatory sentence in the full. He bore our sins and became sin on the cross that we now have become God's very own righteousness in Christ Jesus.
- b. Believers will never encounter condemnation from God because of what Jesus did. [[John 3:18](#), [John 5:24](#), [Rom 8:34](#)]
- c. If God will never condemn us because Jesus already took all of our condemnation, then where does condemnation come from?
 - 1a. First, it comes from Satan. He has a three step strategy for every Christian. This plan of the enemy is found in [[Romans 8:33-35](#)]. First the enemy will try to accuse us for our poor or inadequate performance. If we accept the accusation then he will bring condemnation to our heart. If we accept the condemnation then he will try to convince you that you have been separated from God because of your sin. This will cripple your faith and the grace of God will not be tapped into.

- 2a. Secondly, condemnation comes from your own religious thinking and self-righteousness. If you often deal with the feelings of guilt and condemnation then it is a sure sign you are religious and self-righteous. You are your own judge and punisher. You feel guilty and punish yourself in many ways because YOU SHOULD BE BETTER! This is self-righteousness my friend! In yourself you are corrupt to the core. Only by the grace and work of God in Christ are you made acceptable to God. You are perfect in your reborn spirit and it had nothing to do with your self efforts to be better! God did it all. You are His workmanship in Christ Jesus, not your workmanship!
- 3a. When you focus on trying to become more holy or more righteous in your actions you leave the field of grace and enter the quagmire of works and law. This will only produce self focus, self righteousness, and self condemnation. Depression is most often the self pity and self punishment we give ourself for not measuring up to our own expectation or our perceived expectations of others or what we think God expects. When we are disappointed in ourselves because of our poor or inadequate performance betrays that we first have trusted in ourselves. This is self righteousness.
- 4a. We have been made perfect, holy, righteous, and pure already by the finished work of Jesus. We are perfect in spirit. We are a spirit, that has a soul, that lives in a body. When we try to become what we already are by our works we will end up frustrated and condemned! We need to accept the fact that Jesus has already been punished fully for every one of our sins. We often punish ourselves by self verbal abuse and depression. That is never enough to pay for sin. The just payment for sin is DEATH! We deserve to die for our sin, not be depressed! Jesus died our death for us! It takes humility to accept the forgiveness of God freely given to us in Christ. If we stubbornly continue to receive condemnation for our actions we say no the grace of God to walk free from those actions!
- 5a. The Holy Spirit will only move and act upon the finished work of Jesus. When we receive condemnation for our sins then we are saying that what Jesus did on the cross was not sufficient to pay for our sins. We feel we must also pay. This is stinking pride and frustrates the grace of God. The

seeds of condemnation always sprout into a harvest of sin. Condemnation is wood to the addictive fire. Addictions are kept alive by condemnation. When you accept guilt for sin then you will be bound by that sin. Only by receiving complete and full forgiveness and the gift of righteousness is the Spirit going to be able to empower you to live righteous. If you feel you are a guilty sinner you will live like one, even if you don't want to! You will live out of your heart beliefs. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. The truth is that Jesus fully paid the ransom price for you to be free from the guilt and power of sin, poverty, sickness, lack, barrenness, and everything else from the enemy. We walk in emancipation by believing the message and acting upon it. Many slaves after the Civil War did not go free because they did not know or believe the Emancipation Proclamation. The same goes with a lot of Christians! They continue to live in slavery to condemnation, guilt, and self righteousness.

- 6a. I believe many diseases have a root cause of condemnation. When someone's heart receives condemnation they feel they are guilty and therefore deserve punishment. Their heart tells their own body to punish themselves and the result is sickness and disease!
- 7a. Some reject condemnation however they also reject repentance. Condemnation has no place in a Christian's heart by repentance sure does! Repentance is necessary before freedom can be found from sin and the flesh. In most people's mind repentance is a feeling that is accompanied by a greater resolve to do better and to do differently. This is actually what we need to repent from! That thinking is based in self effort and self righteousness. That thinking has nothing to do with biblical repentance! The Greek word for "repentance" is **metanoia**- **meta**- to change; **nous**- *mind-lit. to change the mind*. So repentance is to change your mind which will change your actions. What are we to change our mind about? We are to change our mind about trusting in our own self to live the Christian life and trust in Christ in us and His grace to live the Christian life. We should grieve over our sins, not because we should have done better, but for the fact we trusted in ourselves in the first place and did not draw upon the grace of God to live as we should!

B. to them that are in Christ Jesus

1. There is teaching today that all men are in Christ Jesus because of what Jesus has done on the cross. This is false and heresy. You must receive what Jesus has done and be born again to be in Christ Jesus. If all people are automatically in Christ Jesus then Paul would have not added the phrase in this verse, "to them that are in Christ Jesus". If everyone was already in Christ then there would be no need for this phrase!
2. Only born again people are in Christ. Christians are people who wholly share everything with what another possesses, which is Jesus Christ. Born again people are nothing, have nothing, and can do nothing apart from Christ sharing his identity, possessions, and ability to them. We are elect because He is the Elect One. We are righteous because He is the Righteous One. We are holy because He is the Holy One. We are who we are because Jesus shares with us who He is! We have all things because Jesus has all things and freely shares them with us! We can do all things through Him because He freely shares His power with us when we ask, believe, and act in faith.

C. to those who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1. This is a highly spurious addition by some unnamed scribe.
2. This spurious phrase no doubt was borrowed from vs. 4 where it is truly found and belongs.
3. There is no condemnation for those in Christ period. There is no qualifications other than being in Christ to have no condemnation from God.

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

A. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus

1. **law- governing principle, constant abiding force or principle**
2. The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is in our reborn spirit. This is the law of our new being [Amplified]. This Spirit of life is always present in us even when we don't tap into it by faith.
3. The introduction of the Spirit of Christ is the turning point in a person's life. First, the introduction of the indwelling Spirit brings to us the new birth- a brand new life and existence. Second, the introduction of the baptism in the Holy Spirit brings a brand new quality of life and power. Praying in the Spirit was given at the birth of the church. God has given the baptism in the Holy Spirit so we can all be built up on our most holy faith. [**Jude 20**] How are you going to practically grow as a Christian. It is by being rooted and built up in Christ. [**Col. 2:7**] You become rooted in Christ by revelation knowledge of His Word. You are built up in Christ

by praying in the Spirit. We need to be both rooted so we can bear fruit, and built up so we can do the work of the ministry.

4. When Paul talks about the struggle with the flesh, he will introduce the Spirit as the answer for it. [i.e. Gal. 5:16-18]

B. Spirit of life in Christ Jesus

1. The Spirit of God has brought zoe life [the life of God] into our reborn spirit. We are now one spirit with God. [1 Cor. 6:17]
2. The Spirit of life is in our spirit. We cannot feel this reality. We can only acknowledge it and access it by faith in God's Word.
3. This life is in God's Son. He who does not have the Son, does not have the life. He who has the Son, has this life in him. [1 John 5:12] Not every one has the Son. We have the Son by receiving the Son. When we receive the Son we have the Son. When we have the Son, we are in Him and He is in us. He is not in unbelievers because they do not have the Son.

C. has made me free from the law of sin and death

1. **has**- What tense is this? This glorious word is past tense which means it has taken place. Religion and legalists are incessantly teaching, preaching, yelling, threatening, and whatever else they do to get you to do what has already been done! They teach that you must get free from the law of sin and death. They give you rules, guidelines, and steps to do this.
2. **made me free**- Gr. **eleutheroo**- *aor. ind.- to be liberated in time past.*
 - a. We were made free when we were recreated in Christ. Our spirit was made in righteousness and true holiness. We were born again free in Christ. We are a free spirit! We need to say this often, "I was born free from sin, sickness, lack, barrenness, and defeat! I was born righteous, healthy, prosperous, fruitful, and victorious in Christ!"
 - b. Many are trying to make themselves free because they do not feel free and do not have a past history of being free, thus they think they must make themselves free.
 - c. Again, slaves can't free themselves. Freedom from the slavery of sin could only come by ransom and that of innocent blood [life] of a sacrifice. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin and free a sinner. However, the blood of Jesus was sufficient payment to free us from sin's hold on us. We have been made free by the offering of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus.
 - d. We must first acknowledge, appreciate, and appropriate this by faith through the mirror of God's Word. Going on feeling will never lead us aright in this matter. We cannot feel this is true. We must believe this is true to experience the fruit of it's liberation!

3. from the law of sin and death

- a. These laws were described in detail in chapter 7. These laws work in our bodily members. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus works in our spirit. We can tap into the higher law of the Spirit by faith. Just like a plane can escape the law of gravity by the greater laws of thrust and lift, so we can escape the law of sin and death by the greater law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
- b. Our soul is the critical factor in if we will walk in victory or defeat. We can try to use our soul power to overcome sin and we will find nothing but defeat. If we submit our soul in trust in the Spirit/spirit then we will experience victory. Instead of using our will power to try to defeat sin [which has already been defeated by Christ], we can use our will to exercise faith in Christ and His Spirit in us to overcome in us and for us.

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,

A. For what the law could not do

1. There are some things that the law could not do
 - a. The law could not justify you- [Acts 13:39]
 - b. The law could not make you perfect- [Heb. 7:19, 10:1]
 - c. The law could not cleanse your conscience- [Heb. 10:1-3]
 - d. The law could not take away sins- [Heb. 10:11]

B. in that it was weak through the flesh

1. The law is dependent upon the flesh to keep it. In that the flesh was utterly weak and corrupt, the law could not help mankind. Since the law puts a demand upon man which he cannot fulfill, then the law was made weak through our flesh.

C. God did

1. These two words encapsulate the word grace. Grace that is offered by the finished work of Christ and is what God does for us without our assistance and help.

D. by sending His own Son

1. What the law could not do, God did in the person of His Son Jesus Christ
 - a. God justified us in Christ- [1 Cor. 6:11]
 - b. God made us perfect in Christ- [Heb. 10:14]
 - c. God cleansed our conscience in Christ- [Heb. 10:2]
 - d. God took away our sins in Christ- [1 John 3:5]

E. in the likeness of sinful flesh

1. Jesus was fully human- he had a human spirit, soul, and body. He was

also fully God. He was the Word, the second member of the Godhead. Jesus was the God-man. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. [John 1:14] Jesus was the Word who took on full humanity- spirit, soul, and body. Jesus was born of a virgin so he was not tainted with the fallen Adamic nature. His blood came from His Father and was untainted. He was in the likeness of sinful flesh, but he did not have sinful flesh. Outwardly Jesus looked like every other human. [see. Phil. 2:8]

F. on account of sin

1. Jesus was sent to give his life as an offering for sin. He bore our sins in His body, but He also became sin itself. 2 Cor. 5:21 Jesus died fully in His humanity. He bore our sins in his human body. He bore the emotional pain of our sin in His soul, and His human spirit died when he became sin and was cut off from God. Jesus human spirit needed to be made alive before He could be raised from the dead. [1 Peter 3:18- lit. *made alive in spirit*] When our sins and sin were legally dealt with in the courtroom of heaven, then Jesus spirit was made alive in the lower parts of the earth and He was raised from the dead. The fact that Jesus was raised from the dead is proof our sins have been paid for and removed! [Rom. 4:25- raised *because of* our justification]
2. To the degree Jesus took our fall, is the degree to which we can be made free from it! Jesus took sin into his humanity- spirit, soul, and body so we could be made new spirit, soul, and body! He became identical with our fallen spirit, soul, and body, so in exchange we could be made identical with His resurrected spirit, soul, and body. This is identification!

G. He condemned sin in the flesh

1. **condemned-** Gr. *katakrima-* *to utterly judge against to eternal ruin*
 - a. Sin is condemned. We often allow ourselves to be condemned by sin, but we need to decree to sin that it is condemned! Satan the author of sin is condemned! We need to speak this regularly.
 2. We often try to deal with sin and defeat it. Jesus has already defeated sin by His own death and in His resurrection He has condemned it permanently to eternal ruin! Sin does not hold Jesus any longer and because He is our legal representative it cannot hold us any longer either when we believe it.
2. **sin in the flesh**
 - a. This is where sin resides and has it's home- in our bodily members. Romans 6:12, 7:5, 7:18, 7:23, 7:24, 8:3, 8:10, 8:13, 8:23
 - b. We are destined to get a resurrected body in which there will be no sin! We will have the principle of sin in our body until we die. We

can walk in victory over the flesh by walking in the Spirit. We again do that by exercising faith in our new spiritual identity and by praying in and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.

A. that the righteous requirement of the law

1. **righteous requirement-** Gr. **dikaionoma-** *that which has been deemed right so as to have force of law.*

- a. God has a righteous requirement for his people. Under the the Old Testament it was up the people to fulfill that righteous requirement. Under the New Testament the Spirit will fulfill the requirement in us when we depend on the Spirit empowering us. This comes by faith in the promises of the New Covenant and by praying in the Holy Spirit.
- b. God's love in us and lived out of us to others fulfills the righteous requirement of the law. [[Rom. 13:10](#)]
- c. Under the New Covenant, God will never require from you that which He has not already placed within you by His own person [Spirit] and grace. The New Covenant commands are no more than God placing a demand on Himself and on what He has already placed within your born again spirit. We draw upon this by faith.
- d. Many are preaching today and they are telling Christians that God has no expectations or requirement any longer. We can just live however we want and it does not matter. God forbid! God still has the same holy requirement, even higher! However, this requirement was fully met in the finished work of Christ, and carried out by His resurrection life now living in and through us by faith. We never produce such a life. We just express such a life by dependence upon the Life of God within.
- e. We will never fully express this life, but the life of Christ in us is the fulfillment of God's requirement.

B. might be fulfilled in us

1. **fulfilled-** Gr. **pleroo-** *to completely fill to the top*

2. **IN us-** notice this does not say BY US! No! The righteous requirement of God is fulfilled IN US. Christian living is something that first happens in us before it is lived by us! The Christian life is Christ by His Spirit living in us!

- a. Paul said that he was called so Christ could be revealed IN HIM. [[Gal. 1:16](#)]

C. Who do not walk according the flesh

1. This means to walk according to the five senses, the feelings and dictates of the flesh.
2. To walk in the flesh means we are not walking in faith. We are not walking in the light of God's Word.
3. Another term for this in the bible is being carnal instead of being spiritual.

D. but according to the Spirit

1. This could read this also as referring to "spirit" speaking of our reborn spirit. There is no capitalization in the Greek. We must look at context to determine if Paul is speaking of the Holy Spirit or our reborn spirit.
2. We are called as Christians to walk in faith in what God says about us in our spirit. We are holy, righteous, healthy, prosperous in the spirit. We are perfect in our spirit. It takes faith to walk in the Spirit/spirit.
3. God's holy requirement has been met by our new birth. However God wants this holy requirement to reach fulfillment. This means that the goal of God's holy requirement for us is not that we are merely born again but that His life is expressed out of us to others so they can be also! If God's goal was to get us born again then when we got saved we would have been taken to heaven right then. That did not happen. The goal of God is that this new life in us be expressed in us and through us to the world so they can be saved as well. This is part of the Great Commission.

5. 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.

A. For those who live according to the flesh

1. In an unbeliever this is the life lived out of their nature.
2. For a believer this is a choice of unbelief not to walk in their new nature.

B. set their minds on the things of the flesh

1. Gr. **minds- phroneo-** *to feel, to think, to have an opinion of one's self, think of one's self*
 - a. to be fleshly or carnal minded is to have your mind set on yourself naturally. It is to think only of yourself in the natural.

C. but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

1. To be spiritual you must think upon Christ and the Word because Christ is the Word! We must take our eyes off of ourself naturally and put them on Christ and who we are in Him in the spirit.
2. The Holy Spirit was sent to indwell us to teach us what belongs to us in Christ. He reveals all the things that belong to us in Christ. These are the things of the Spirit we are to keep our mind upon to walk in the Spirit. [1 Cor. 2:12]

6. **For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.**

A. **For to be carnally minded *is* death**

1. The word *is* in this sentence is in italics because it is not in the original Greek. It was added by the translators in order to make a meaningful sentence. However it is the wrong meaning. The meaning is that carnal mindedness will facilitate the progression of death. If carnal mindedness was death, then all the Christians would be dead! At some point all of us has had moments of being carnally minded! When we are carnally minded it will facilitate the progression death in whatever area we are carnally minded in. If our minds are not in line with the Word about our health or finances then the carnal mindedness will facilitate death in those areas. Sickness, disease, poverty, and lack are not the source of the destruction in people's lives. These are around all people, but not all people are subjected to them! What is the source of the death and destruction? It is carnal mindedness! To be carnal minded is to produce death.

B. **but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace**

1. To have your mind in line with the Word and what is true of you in the spirit will facilitate the progression of life and peace in your life. If your mind is in line with the Word and what is true in your spirit in the areas of your health and finances then life and peace [wholeness] will work in those areas.
2. It is possible to have life and peace working in one area of your life and death working in another. It depends on the renewing of your mind to the truth of the Word of God.

7. **Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

A. **Because the carnal mind**

1. The mindset of the flesh is on self perpetually.
2. The mind of the flesh is set upon the natural only.
3. The mindset of the flesh is set upon your natural self continually.

B. ***is* enmity against God**

1. **enmity**- Gr. **ecthra**- *hostility*
2. Focus on self and focus on God are opposite principles and stand in antagonizing opposition of one another.

C. **for it is not subject to the law of God**

1. The law of God spoken here is the law of love. A mindset set upon self cannot be submitted to or fulfill love. God's love gives out to others no matter if the object deserves it or not.

2. A flesh mindset will only give if it is advantageous to self or makes self look good. If what is given is spurned then their "love" turns quickly to hatred and bitterness.

D. neither indeed can it be

1. It is impossible for someone focused on self to walk in God's love.

8. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

A. Those walking after the flesh [focus on the self and natural] cannot please God. Why?

B. To please God it takes walking in faith! [**Heb. 11:6**]

C. To walk in the Spirit/spirit you must walk by faith.

1. You cannot detect what is in your spirit by your natural senses. You must look into the mirror of the Word and believe what it says about your spirit.

2. You cannot look at the natural to tell what is true of you in the spirit.

3. To focus on who you are in the spirit is to look at who Christ is. We are now one identical spirit with the Lord Jesus. [**1 Cor. 6:17**] As He is so are we in this world. [**1 John 4:17**] As we behold his glory we are changed into the same image by the Spirit of God. [**2 Cor. 3:18**]

D. It pleases God when we take him at His Word that we are righteous, holy, pure, forgiven, loved, and filled with his power and love. What is within our spirit will be communicated or released by verbal acknowledgment and acting in faith. [**Philemon 6**]

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.

A. But you are not in the flesh

1. Paul is going to use the terms here- "in the flesh" and "in the Spirit". These are terms of identification and position. To be in the flesh means you are unregenerate or unsaved. To be in the Spirit means you are born again and saved. A believer is always in the Spirit. A believer is not always walking "according to the Spirit" however. A believer can walk after or according to the flesh. An unbeliever has no choice but to walk in the flesh because they are in the flesh in identity and position.

B. but in the Spirit- we are born again by the Spirit and sealed by the Spirit. We are in the Spirit always! We need to say this over ourselves regularly!

1. It is who we are in the Spirit/spirit that determines our identity.

2. What we are in the Spirit can only be seen in the mirror of the Word. It cannot be detected by our five natural senses or emotions.

3. Living by faith in who and what we are in the Spirit will cause us to be stable fruit bearing Christians.

C. if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

1. What makes a Christian different is that the Spirit of God dwells in them.
2. The believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit. [**1 Cor. 3:16**]
3. A Christian has been joined to the Lord and is one Spirit/spirit with Him. [**1 Cor. 6:17**]
4. This is how we can bear the fruit of the Lord Jesus- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. [**Gal. 5:22-23**]
5. The Spirit was sent into our hearts in order that Christ could be incarnate in us and in our world. We are now billboards for God in the world to expand His kingdom. We are to bring the laws of God's kingdom to our world- the laws of faith and love.

D. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

1. This verse is in direct contradiction to the popular teaching of universalism today. This teaching says that all people are in Christ and belong to God.
2. This verse says that if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. If everyone belonged to Christ this verse would be unnecessary. Jesus one day will say to some, depart from me I never knew you. That does not sound so universal does it now...
3. No, do not be deceived! There are people that belong to Christ and others who do not. To have the Spirit of Christ you must first receive the Spirit of Christ. You do that by believing upon Christ and His finished work for you in his death on the cross and resurrection. [**Rom. 10:9-10**]

10. And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

A. And if Christ is in you

1. Where is Christ in us? In our born again spirit.

B. the body is dead because of sin

1. Where is the principle and power of sin? In our body.
2. There is death working in our natural body because of the presence and power of sin working in it.
3. The working of sin in our body is called the flesh. This has influence upon the soul of a believer unless they continue to renew their mind to their spirit and to the Word of God. It will also continue to influence the soul of a believer after salvation unless the believer by faith exercises the authority of Christ over it. Authority always will trump power. Our authority in Christ used in faith will trump and overrule the power of sin in our members.
4. All humans will die in their body because of the universal presence of

sin in our members.

C. but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

1. This is a mistake of the translators of this verse. This verse is not speaking of the Holy Spirit! This verse is a contrast of our body/flesh and of our spirit. Our body has death in it because of the presence and power of sin in our members. However, our spirit is full of life because of the presence and power of God's righteousness! Oh, hallelujah!!!
2. God has caused our old man-our old spirit identity to die and be reborn in the exact image of Christ Himself! We have been created in righteousness and true holiness. There is a fake holiness in the world. We have been made truly holy! As holy as Christ is, so are we in this present world, right now!! Hallelujah!
3. Righteousness in the best Greek dictionaries means to be just as you ought to be! Do you believe you are just as you ought to be? Most say absolutely not!!! Why do they say this? Because they are getting their reality from what they feel and see in the flesh or in emotions of their soul, or the memory of their past. We cannot determine true reality from these things. We can only find reality from the mirror of God's Word. In the old cartoon the mirror on the wall talked back to the person looking into it! The mirror of God's Word also speaks. It tells us that we are just as we ought to be in Christ and we are truly holy! Now, what we believe will determine our view of reality. Do we believe our feelings or God's Word?
4. Our spirit has been born again and sealed. **Eph. 1:13** That means our spirit is forever sealed in perfection and the contamination of sin cannot break that seal. **1 John 3:9** As long as we have faith in Christ as our Lord that seal cannot and is not broken! We are secure in our faith in Christ!

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.

A. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you

1. We have the resurrection power on the inside of us. Our faith becomes effective by acknowledging this!

B. He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1. In context this is not speaking of the resurrection of the saints. This is speaking of receiving life to our bodies while we are living! This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to overcome the power of sin in our flesh.
[see vs. 13]
2. [**2 Cor. 4:10-11**]- The death of Christ is administered to our flesh, so that

the resurrection power can be displayed in our mortal body.

3. The mortification of our flesh is not a permanent killing of the flesh, but a deadening to it like our mouth receives at the dentist. We say that our mouth was deadened when Novocaine is applied. The ministry of the Spirit of God is like spiritual Novocaine to our flesh. It needs to be daily applied by faith.
4. This deadening process is seen in Romans 6.
 - a. Know your old man was crucified with Christ.
 - b. Reckon on the fact you are dead to sin and alive to God through Christ.
 - c. Exercise your spiritual authority over sin and refuse it to reign in your mortal body.
 - d. Present yourself and your members to God and His Spirit.
5. No matter how weak a Christian is in their flesh, the same Spirit that raised up Christ will cause that same Christian to overcome sin and the flesh! There is no excuse for any Christian to walk in defeat. Defeat is a by product of either ignorance, unbelief, or deception.

12. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

A. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors- not to the flesh

1. **Debtors-** Gr. **opheiletēs**- *ones indebted*
2. A borrower is slave to the lender. [[Prov. 22:7](#)] Our sin incurred a debt that enslaved us! [[John 8:34](#)] Jesus paid that price in full. Sin has no more legal claims over us! Satan and sin can only deceive us into thinking it still has the rule over us. If we let them rule they will. If we exercise our authority in Christ they cannot!

B. to live according to the flesh

1. An unbeliever is indebted to the flesh. They have no other resource other than the flesh.
2. The believer has the Spirit and the life of Christ in which to draw from by faith.

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.

A. if- ei- *First class condition-* If it is the case that you live according to the flesh. A first class condition assumes for the sake of argument that the statement is true.

B. you will die- Gr. **mello apothenesko-** *about to die off.*

1. This term is used to show the extreme patience of God. This says you are **about to die**, or death is lingering in your future.
2. The death spoken of here for living in the flesh is premature death. We

all will die because of the sin principle in our flesh. However, if you choose to live according to the flesh, then death is accelerated in your life.

3. The one sin that will end in eternal death is the rejection of Christ and His finished work. [1 John 5:16] The warnings of eternal perdition to Christians found in Galatians and Hebrews refer to Christians that were rejecting faith in Christ for adherence and trust in the Mosaic Law. This was the rejection of Christ!

C. **But if by the Spirit**

1. We do not put to death the deeds of the body by will power or outward discipline. The only way we can see the death of the deeds of the body is by the Spirit/spirit. Again, there is only one word for the Holy Spirit and the human spirit which is pneuma. We have to see by context which is being spoken of. Since the Spirit has joined and is one with our reborn spirit, often both can be used as here in this verse. [1 Cor. 6:17] When we walk in faith in who we are in our reborn spirit then we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
2. Walking in the Spirit is to walk according the Word of God. The Word tells us who we are in the Spirit/spirit. It takes faith to walk according the Spirit/spirit because we cannot feel, touch, hear, see, or taste the things of the Spirit/spirit. We must believe what we see in the mirror of God's Word. When we do that the Spirit will transform us outwardly based upon that internal image on the inside of us in our spirit. [2 Cor. 3:18]
3. When we believe that our old Adamic nature was crucified with Christ and that we are made new and righteous in Christ then the Spirit will put to death the deeds of the flesh. [Romans 6:6,11]
4. If we believe we are just an old rotten sinner saved by grace, then the Spirit will do nothing with our flesh. The Spirit will only operate and confirm the truth. Christ and His finished work and our new identity in Him is eternal truth. When we trust Him and what He has done for us, to us, and in us, then the Spirit will operate and confirm that in our natural lives.

D. **put to death the deeds of the body**

1. **put to death- thanatoo-** *present tense- to deaden*. If this word means to kill it would be in the aor. tense. This word here is in the present tense which means to perpetually deaden. This is like a dentist administering Novocaine to your mouth. This means to continue to deaden.
2. It is the **deeds** of the body that is put to death.
3. When we walk in the Spirit our flesh itself is mortified, which means to *deaden*. Again, this is much like injecting Novocaine in your mouth at

the dentist. It deadens your mouth. Walking in the Spirit will deaden your flesh. Now, if you choose to stop walking by faith in the Word and the revelation of who you are in Christ, then the flesh will cease to be deadened and come into full operation again in your life!

E. you will live

1. When we walk in the Spirit/spirit we experience life! Just because you are breathing does not mean you are experiencing life.
2. A mind set upon the Spirit/spirit is life and peace. [**Romans 8:6**] A mind that dwells on that you are once and all forgiven by the one time sacrifice of Christ and have been made permanently righteous in your new identity will produce life and peace to you!

14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

A. **For-** this is a connective word to the last verse that speaks of deadening your flesh by walking in faith. It is done by walking in the Spirit/spirit.

B. as many as are led by the Spirit of God

1. **led- ago-** *to be carried along by the power of another.*
2. This word ago is used 76 times in the New Testament and is almost always used of being brought along, carried, or escorted by another. This word can be translated brought along, carried, or empowered.
3. Many think that being led by the Spirit means that you hear the Spirit call you and you attempt to follow the voice. No! This word ago makes it plain that being led by the Spirit is being brought along, carried, or empowered by the Spirit!
4. When we trust in the Word of God on our complete forgiveness, our new identity in Christ, and our new position in Christ, the Spirit will bring us along, carry us, and empower us to live a supernatural life above sin and the flesh!

C. these are the sons of God

1. **sons-** Gr. **huios-** *matured sons.* The Greek word **teknon** means a small immature child. Here **huios** is used to show that only mature sons have been taught to be led or be empowered by the Spirit.
2. It takes maturity in the Word to walk by faith in our spiritual identity in Christ and not according to the flesh- what we see, feel, touch, taste, and hear. It takes maturity to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh.
3. Mature sons know they are completely forgiven, and the old person they were was crucified with Christ and they have been raised and seated in Christ- righteous and holy!

15. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

A. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage

1. **For-** *connective to the last verse.* We are now sons of God. Before we were born again we were slaves to sin and subjects to wrath.
2. **spirit of bondage-** Gr. **spirit douleia-** before we were born again our spirits were dead and enslaved to our flesh.
 - a. In this section of scripture Paul is describing our new freedom in Christ from the control of the sinful flesh. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and became sin on the cross and then died to sin once and for all. Sin no longer has a legal right to be our master. He who dies is free from sin. [**Romans 6:7**]
 - b. our reborn spirit as been created in the likeness of Christ and is now free from the contact and control of sin. [**1 John 3:9**] When a Christian sins it does not effect the spirit. Neither does a Christian sin with their spirit. The reborn spirit has been circumcised away from the flesh and is now sealed and cannot be contaminated by the flesh. [**Col. 2:11, Rom 2:29**]
 - c. Our reborn spirit is free! We must constantly remind ourselves that we **ARE A SPIRIT**, that has a soul, that lives in our body. Who we are in our identity is who we are in our spirit. A sinner is dead in sins because that is true in their spirit. [**Eph. 2:1,3**] A Christians is righteous and holy because that is true of their spirit! [**Eph. 4:24, 2 Cor. 5:21**]
3. **again to fear**
 - a. An unbeliever is in bondage to fear. They are afraid of death. [**Heb. 2:15**] Why sinners are afraid of death is because they have torment of coming judgment and punishment. [**1 John 4:18b**]
 - b. For a believer this kind of fear should be gone! Once we see what Jesus did for us to take our penalty, suffer wrath for us, and to bring complete and eternal redemption, we should be free from the bondage of fear.

B. **but you received the spirit of adoption**

1. **spirit of adoption-** the phrase in this verse, "spirit of bondage" has a small "s" for spirit. This refers to our human spirit. If the first phrase is speaking of our human spirit, than the latter phrase, "spirit of adoption" also refers to our human spirit.
2. **adoption-** Gr. **uihosthesia-** *from huios- mature son; tithemi- to place-lit. son placing*
 - a. In the Greek and Roman cultures, when a child was born they were given over to tutors or schoolmasters until they reached maturity. Once they reached maturity they went through a ceremony of adoption into the family in which they were place as mature sons in the family. Once they were placed as sons in the family they had full use of the family name and assets.

- b. Spiritually this happens as well! We were literally born of God [**1 Peter 1:23**] , but we also have been adopted by God [**Eph 1:5**]. We have not only been born of God but also we have been placed as mature, legal sons that are able to have full access to the family name and assets. [**Gal. 3:26**]
 - 3. In the spirit we are mature, legal, adult sons of God that have full access to the family name [Jesus] and use of all assets of God. We have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. [**Eph. 1:3**] We have received the spirit of adoption.
 - C. **by whom we cry out, "Abba Father!"**
 - 1. by whom- lit. whereby or by which
 - 2. **cry out**- Gr. **crazo**- *to scream!* Sometimes we need to scream in the face of our circumstances and our flesh- You are my Abba Father!! I am your child!
 - 3. **Abba Father**- **Abba** is a term of endearment which means much like our terms of Daddy and Papa. God is our creator, but He is also our Daddy. He is our Papa. If you are totally uncomfortable with these terms for God, then you do not know the Father heart of God and have not renewed your mind to the spirit of adoption!

16. **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**

A. **The Spirit Himself**

- 1. Here clearly the Holy Spirit is meant by the Greek word pneuma- spirit.
- 2. Himself- The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is the third member of the Trinity. The word Trinity is not found in the Bible but the concept is. [**Gen. 1:26, Gen. 3:22, Gen. 11:7, Isa. 6:8, 1 John 5:7**]. All three are called Lord. [**Jer. 1:6, John 13:13, 2 Cor. 3:17**]

B. **bears witness with our spirit**

- 1. The Holy Spirit has been joined to our reborn spirit. [**1 Cor. 6:17**]
- 2. It is in our spirit that the Holy Spirit bears witness with us.
 - a. [**Rom. 9:1, 1 John 5:10**]
- 3. The inner witness is an inward peace, calm, and knowing of something. The opposite of this is unrest, lack of peace, and what many call a check in your heart. The inward witness can be a green light or red light in your heart.
- 4. In the book of Acts this witness is called by the phrase "it seemed good"
 - a. [**Acts 15:25, 28, 34**]

C. **that we are the children of God**

- 1. **children**- Gr. **teknon**- *a small child; one that is an offspring*
 - a. Positionally in Christ we are all mature sons of God- Gr. huiois. [**Gal. 3:26**]

- b. Temporally most of God's children are immature- Gr. teknon
- c. We cannot grow to maturity until we receive this witness that we are a child of God.

2. As literally being born of God we have His spiritual genes in our spirit. [1 **John 3:9**] We have been recreated in His likeness and image. [**Eph. 4:24**] If we will walk in the Spirit/spirit we will bear the fruit of God's character. [**Gal. 5:22-23**]

17. and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

A. and if children [teknon], then heirs

1. **heirs-** Gr. **kleronomos-** *one who receives his allotted possession by right of sonship; one who has acquired or obtained the portion allotted to him.* [**Eph. 1:11-14; Tit. 3:7; Heb.1:14**]

- a. The unrighteous have no inheritance in Christ. [1 **Cor. 6:9-11**] If you are born again you are righteous. You have been washed, justified, and sanctified by the Spirit of God!

B. heirs of God

1. God our Father has given us His possessions

C. and joint heirs with Christ

1. It is very important to realize and keep in mind that all of God's possessions are given to us in Christ. All of God the Father is in His Son. We were placed into God's Son. We have been joined to Him so we co-share everything with Christ. Nothing of God is given to us directly or because of us. It is given in and through His Son and is given because of Him!
2. We are righteous because He is. We are holy because He is. We are sons of God because He is. We are predestined because He is. It goes on and on. We have been identified with Christ. As He is so are we in this world! [1 **John 4:17**]

D. if indeed we suffer with Him

1. Suffering is lot and parcel for the Christian life. Suffering in the Christian life that is according to God's will is found in two areas.
 - a. Persecution
 - b. Resisting the flesh and sin
2. We are not called to suffer sickness, sin, or poverty- These Jesus redeemed us from!
3. If we refuse to suffer with Christ then we will harden our heart and are in danger from departing from the Living God! [**Heb. 3:12**]
4. It is possible to be saved but receive no inheritance in heaven. It is possible for all to be burnt up. but we ourselves will be saved, yet as by fire. [1 **Cor. 3:15**] We can't receive rewards in the Kingdom of God

without suffering with Christ.

5. We all enjoy the apple pie and ice cream of God's Word, but here is a large serving of spiritual broccoli! It is good for you!

E. that we may also be glorified together

1. Jesus has identified with us on the cross, and now we are identified with Him. We identify not only with the positive warm fuzzy feeling things, but also we are to identify with His sufferings. [**Phil. 3:10**] It has been granted to us not only to believe upon Christ but also to suffer for His sake. [**Phil. 1:29**]

18. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

A. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time

1. This is suffering we experience while we are in our body here on the earth

B. are not worthy to be compared

1. **worthy-** Gr. **axios-** *equal weight to*

2. The weight of the glory of heaven and the reward for suffering for Christ far outweighs the suffering we have which is but for a moment! [**2 Cor. 4:17**]

3. We feel weighted down by the pressures of this life if we are living in and for Christ. The weight of glory waiting for us far out weighs it!

C. with the glory which shall be revealed in us

1. That glory that shall be revealed in us is **now in us!** We have this treasure in earthen vessels right now! [**2 Cor. 4:7**]

2. We must walk in faith that the glory is in us. [**Philemon 6**] Christ in us is the hope of glory! [**Col. 1:27**]

3. What is in us already will be revealed on the outside of us. We will be like Jesus inside and out!