

Walking in the Spirit



Romans 8:1 - 4 (NKJV)

¹ 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. ² 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 8:1 - The critical phrase is 'no condemnation'.

As long as there is any kind of condemnation in your life you cannot live and function in Romans 8. The purpose of God in the previous 7 chapters of Romans is to eliminate every possible source of condemnation in our lives:

Romans 3 – All our past sins can be forgiven

Romans 6 – The execution of the rebel, the old man, the flesh, the body of sin

Romans 7 – We are no longer under any condemnation from the law

If we have faithfully followed through these chapters, understood them and believe what is written - we should be able to say, 'There is therefore now no condemnation in my life.'

Condemnation is one of the Devils' favourite and strongest weapons. We all want instant Romans 8 (instant coffee), however to get there we have to walk through the journey/process in Romans chapters 1 – 7 (the percolator).

In Colossians 2:13 - 17 Paul describes what Jesus accomplished for us in Jesus' death on the Cross:

¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses [the past], ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us [the law]. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. [the law has no more claims on us] ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. ¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, [don't let anyone condemn you in relation to this list in verse 16 - these are a matter of personal choice]

¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

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

There are 2 laws at work:

The law of sin and death – pulls you down

The law of the Spirit of life – only operates in Christ Jesus – lifts you up

We are released from law of sin and death through the law of life

Romans 8:3 - 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,

In the flesh on the Cross God finally judged and abolished sin

Heb. 9:26b - but now, once at the end of the ages, He [Jesus] has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Jesus terminated the power of sin and its claims.

In contrast, speaking of the sacrifices of the law:

Hebrews 10:3 - **But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.**

Sacrifices under the law never put away sin – they reminded people of their sin and covered it until the next sacrifice was due.

This leads to the important practical issue of what God did through the sacrifice of Jesus - In order that:

Romans 8:4 - 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.**

Notice: The law is not to be fulfilled – but **the righteous requirement of the law should be fulfilled in us.**

Romans 5:18b ... even so **through one Man's righteous act** the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. An 'act of righteousness'

A picture of the bride ready for the marriage supper:

Rev 19:8 - And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the **righteous acts of the saints.**

So how can believers fulfil the righteous requirement of the Law? **LOVE**

Matt 22:36 - Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Summed up by Jesus: Love for God and your neighbour

—compare Romans 13:8–10:

⁸ Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

Gal. 5:14:

¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

1 Tim. 1:5–7:

⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, ⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

James 1:25:

²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

James 2:8, 12.

⁸ If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well;

¹² So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

Four important points in relation to loving God and your neighbour as yourself:

1. God's love is *supernatural*

—It is initiated by the new birth (1 Pet. 1:22–23)

²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, **love one another fervently with a pure heart,** ²³ **having been born again,** not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

—It is completed by the outpoured Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5)

⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.

2. God's love acknowledges all the commands of Jesus and the New Testament (John 14:21)

²¹ **He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.** And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

—it is the motive for obedience (John 14:15, 23)

¹⁵ **"If you love Me, keep My commandments.**

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;** and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

—fear is no longer the motive for obedience (Romans 8:15).

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."

3. God's love is progressive in its outworking (Phil. 1:9–11)

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

—even when we fall short, our faith is still reckoned to us as righteousness—as with Abraham (4:19–24).

¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." ²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,

4. God's love is perfected through continually obeying God's Word

(1 John 2:5)

⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

—when perfected, God's love delivers from fear (1 John 4:17–18)

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.