

No Condemnation

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:1

Say, "Now." That's when there is no condemnation...right now. If you have put your faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior you do not have to fear a God of wrath but be freed by a God of mercy and grace. I have experienced odd phenomena. I feel guilty a lot even though my sins are forgiven and even though I continue to work on not sinning. Why? The Apostle Paul has just summed it up in Romans seven. Let's take a brief look.

Take a moment and read Romans 7: 7-25. I know that it's a little confusing, but Paul is talking about spiritual laws that govern our lives. The first is the law of commandments. By this Paul is referring to the Old Testament books since the New Testament was not written yet. He is mostly referring to the 10 Commandments because one of his examples is coveting. This law was put into effect to show us how to live a holy life because the law is holy. But we all have a problem. It's called sin. So, there is also the law of sin. It wars within you against God's law. Let's take attitude for instance. We have been looking at a verse that says, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" Philippians 2:5. Do you hear the word "should"? That should means that God has set the standard. We need to align our mental state with that of Christ Jesus. But what happens when you go to do that? Sin living in you wars against the very good and perfect standard that God set for you. AAAAAAAND, you feel guilty because you are finding that you need to work on your attitude 24/7. You are upset with yourself and feel like quitting. You get mad when someone says, "Oh, I hear an attitude there." You're like, "Shut up, I'm tired of this attitude thing already!" But, you don't feel good about yourself. Look, this is supposed to be good news. So, let me take a little guilt off so you can grow in an environment of

love and grace. You are not a loser because you struggle with sinful nature. Everyone does. Paul did and he wrote scripture. Pastor Gene does and he teaches scripture.

Paul helps us by showing us a new law. Read the next chapter, 8:1-4. This new law is the law of the Spirit. Capital S. The Holy Spirit now lives in you and is filled with grace and power to help you overcome the battle with your sinful nature. Now, if I was God, I would do away with the sinful nature all together. But the Father didn't do that. He wants you to learn to overthrow the sinful nature with the help of his word and his Spirit. He wants you to learn how to live life focused on what his Spirit desires (read 5-8). He knows you are prone to sin so Jesus died so that you don't have to be under sin's penalty...i.e. GUILT! You can grow, fail, get up, try again and smile because God loves you and you are working on being like him. Our Father loves it when we work out our salvation, Philippians 2:12. He does not like it when we give up and quit, Hebrews 10:35-39. He has given us everything we need for godliness, 1 Peter 1: 3:9. He has also given us grace beyond all measure, which helps us say no to the sin living in us, Titus 2:11-14. I do not believe that anyone can really grow in an atmosphere of condemnation. God set a new atmosphere. Jesus died to slay the nature of sin and give us the power of his blood that washes us free of guilt, 1 John 1:9. Stop being a self-abuser. Stop beating yourself up for goofing up. Look up, confess your sin, receive cleansing and nullify sin, believe in the work and the power of the blood and hush up, do not listen to the voice of condemnation!