

## **NO CONDEMNATION IN CHRIST (Romans 8:1-4)**

### **I. The limit to no condemnation.**

- A. The word “now” has to do with time.
  - 1. In times past, there was only guilt and lack of justification under the Law of Moses.
  - 2. But now, in this time period, there can be justification.
- B. However, no condemnation is limited to a certain group of people.
- C. Only those in Christ are those who have no condemnation, or positively are justified.
  - 1. He has already told us how to be in Christ, in chapter 6.
  - 2. In the sister letter of Galatians, Paul tells us that baptism puts us into Christ (Galatians 3:27).
- D. This tells us that only those who have been baptized, have put on Christ, are those who have no condemnation.
  - 1. There is no way to successfully deny the necessity of baptism.
  - 2. There is no way to lessen its importance, because that is the only way to get into Christ, which allows for no condemnation.
- E. We can't find justification or a lack of condemnation outside of Christ: it's impossible to find.
- F. If there was any other system, it would be universalism.
- G. God places a limit on those who will receive no condemnation and it is only those who are in Christ who will not receive such.
- H. The last phrase is not found in newer translations because there is very little manuscript evidence for it.
  - 1. However, it is not an unbiblical concept because it is found in verse 4.
  - 2. We will deal with this idea when we get to that verse.

### **II. The law that allows no condemnation.**

- A. There is a law for the one who is in Christ.
  - 1. Sadly, many brethren don't want to understand this.
  - 2. They want to tell us that we aren't under law.
  - 3. This verse says plainly that we are.
  - 4. In fact, we have to be if there is such a thing as sin, as Paul has already pointed out for us.
  - 5. Where there is no law, there is no sin.
  - 6. There is sin, so there must be a law.
- B. The law we obey is not the Law of Moses because it was done away with on the cross.
  - 1. Not only that, it didn't put one in Christ.
  - 2. Because it didn't allow one to be in Christ, it did not allow for one to be justified.
- C. The law we do obey is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
  - 1. The Spirit refers to the Holy Spirit because it is in the Sword of the Spirit where the Law is found.

2. The life is found in Christ Jesus because it is only Him that allows man to have life, since He is the way and the truth and the life.
  3. We can know if we sin or not by what the Holy Spirit has placed in the Bible and it is a law because if we break it, there are serious consequences, even eternal ones.
- D. This law allows us to be free from the law that only reminds one of his sins and leads to death because it could not provide forgiveness.
- E. If we want to miss out on condemnation when this life is over, we must be obedient to the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

### III. **The love that allows no condemnation.**

- A. Moses Law could not make those that came to God through it perfect, it was not designed to do so.
1. Those that followed it could not keep it perfectly, which was necessary to be justified by the law.
  2. For that reason, the law was weak because of the flesh, or the inability of man to perfectly keep the law.
- B. God knew it could not be kept perfectly, and out of love for mankind sent His Son.
1. If it was not for the love of God, you and I would still be under a law we could not keep.
  2. We would be in the same condition as those about whom we read in chapter 7; constantly at battle with ourselves, knowing we could never find justification.
- C. Thankfully, God sent His son in the likeness of sinful flesh.
1. Jesus came here and had flesh like you and me.
  2. His flesh wasn't sinful, but was in the likeness of it.
  3. And it needs to be said, man is not born with sinful flesh, but it becomes sinful through the practice of sin.
- D. God's love allowed His Son to come to earth to deal with sin for us, because the law of Moses couldn't.
1. Jesus condemned sin in the sense that He took away its power over man.
  2. He took away its power to kill us eternally.
  3. Sin is personified in this verse and Jesus is shown as condemning it forever.
- E. Barnes noted that if sin was approved by God, God would not have sent an atonement for its destruction.
1. God showed how evil sin is by allowing His Son to die to condemn sin.
  2. We as Christians need to have the same view of sin as being evil as God does.

### IV. **The life that allows no condemnation.**

- A. Jesus died for us that the righteousness that the Law of Moses sought for the Jews could be made complete in Christ.
1. The Law had taught Jews how to be righteous and desired righteousness for the Jews.

2. However, one had to perfectly keep the Law in order to be righteous.
  3. In Christ, one can be and is righteous because of Jesus coming and condemning sin in the flesh.
- B. The life that allows no condemnation is the life that does not walk after the flesh, fulfilling its desires, but walks after the teaching of the Spirit that brought in the law of Christ.
1. For those who continue to walk in sin and give in to the flesh, there will be condemnation or no justification.
  2. If we continue those sins we were committing before being in Christ, we are lost as we were before.
  3. If we want to be justified and miss out on the condemnation, we must make sure we walk after the teaching of the Spirit.
  4. It is only walking after the Spirit that allows for us to have no condemnation when this life is over.