

## Romans 8:1

***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.***

Oh how we love this verse and quote it all the time.

‡ ***“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”***

The only problem is when we quote this, we are only quoting half of the verse. It would be like me saying, “*Oh, how I love chocolate cake, but if you eat too much it will make you fat.*” And you can take that and quote the first part of it all the time “*Oh, how I love chocolate cake.*” but never consider the second half of my statement, which is, “*but if you eat too much it will make you fat.*” And we don’t because we don’t like that part, even though it’s true. I suppose we think that if I don’t say it, I can ignore it or sneak around it and it won’t apply to me. But even if you don’t say or even consider the second half of my statement, it’s still true and will still happen, because eating too much chocolate cake, over and over and over, day after day after day after day, will make you fat.

It’s the same with today’s verse as well as any part of the bible. We tend to take those cool, verses, or those parts of verses which sound good for us and ignore the rest. Once again, looking at today’s verses, the part we love is 100% true, which is, “***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus***” but the second half has the condition for when there is no condemnation, which is when we, “***do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.***”

So maybe you are feeling condemnation and you try to quote this part of the verse, “***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus***” to counteract it. But the question is, are you walking in the flesh, and if you are, then that’s why you feel condemnation, because you are willfully in sin and doing things you know you should not be doing?

We tend to take this first half of the verse and add (unspoken) our own twist to it, which is, “If you are a Christian, then ***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus***” But it does not say “if you are Christian”, but if you are walking in the spirit, then “***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus***” and yes, to walk in the spirit is referring to being a Christian, but even as Christians, we all know that there are times that we walk in the flesh, by the sinful things we do and even say.

Also, when you are quoting Scripture, you need to make sure you are quoting it in the context it was spoken, and the best way to do that is the 20/20 rule, which is read 20 verses before the verse you are quoting, and 20 verses after it to make sure you are using it in the proper context.

One good example is one so many Christians quote to non believers when they are sharing Jesus, and this is, “***Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the***

***door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.***” **Revelation 3:20** They tell non believers that the Lord is knocking on the door of their heart and they just need to open it up and let Jesus in. But once again, if you read it in it’s proper context, this is Jesus speaking to the church (believers) in Laodicea, not to non believers.

We even read of how satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, and he even quotes scripture, but he quoted it out of context and only quoted part of the verses to try and twist God’s word to what he wanted it to be, not what God intended it to be. Let’s look at it in the book of Matthew.

† **Matthew 4:5-7** *Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:  
'He shall give His angels charge over you,'  
and,  
'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"*  
**Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"**

We read what satan quoted, but if you read it in it’s entirety in the Psalms, we read that satan did not quote it in it’s entirety because he didn’t want Jesus to know the truth behind God’s word, so he did not quote the entire verse or the verses in it’s context, because it reveals how awesome God is and reminding Jesus that He was making the Lord His refuge.

† **Psalm 91:9-12** *Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,  
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,  
No evil shall befall you,  
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;  
For He shall give His angels charge over you,  
To keep you in all your ways.  
In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

So once again, quote scripture as much as you can, because it’s God’s words that penetrate the heart of all (believers and non believers). Just make sure you are quoting it in it’s proper context, so we are not twisting God’s word like satan tried to do.

† **Psalm 12:6** *The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.*

† **Psalm 138:4** *All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, When they hear the words of Your mouth.*

† **Jeremiah 1:9** *Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."*

