

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.

!!!You just won 10 Million Dollars in the Publisher House Sweepstakes!!!

Do you remember receiving these notification in the mail and how excited you were when you did, but then once you opened up the envelope, you read the fine print, which says, “*If you have the winning numbers, or if your name is drawn*” then you realize how slim your chances are out of how many millions of others who received the same notification in the mail.

So, you either threw it away, or you followed the instructions on how you may be able to win the 10 Million Dollars. But we never won, not even a consolation prize. Someone did eventually win, but we must realize that this was simply a way to get people to subscribe to various magazines.

With that in mind, we read today's verse and love it because it says, “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*” But, we don't read the entirety of the verse, and walk away thinking, I have sinned but I should not feel condemned based upon this verse. Yet, there is more to it than that, I hate to use the words “fine print” because it's not the fine print, but rather the words are just as prominent as the words in the rest of the verse are, which says (so to speak) if you don't want to feel condemnation then “*do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*”

Also, as you read on Paul continues to say,

† **Romans 8:5 & 8** *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. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

So, if you are feeling condemnation, the problem may very well be that you are walking or living life according to the flesh. You have embraced the things of this world and made them a part of your lifestyle.

So, what are the ways some may be living in the flesh? Paul tells us in Galatians:

† **Galatians 5:19-21** *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

And if you are living any of these, on purpose, and have made any or all of them your lifestyle, then yes, you will feel condemnation. You can't say that satan is trying to condemn you, he doesn't need to, because you are doing it yourself with your lifestyle.

So what do we do? Paul tells us that as well:

† **Galatians 5:16 & 24** *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

So, if you “*Walk in the Spirit*” then you should not be feeling condemnation but rather experiencing the fruit of the Spirit instead.

† **Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*