

## 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.*

We all love this scripture because when we sin we think we shouldn't feel any condemnation. The problem is, people think that because they only read half of the verse and are quick to quote: *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.* The problem is, you are only reading half the story.

It's like those Publishers Clearing house mailers we used to get that said, "**You just won, One Million Dollars**" The problem is, you have to open the envelope to realize that you can only win if you have the winning numbers. So just reading the opening part of that mailer you would think you are rich, because you didn't read the fine print. But the reality was that you were just as poor as the rest of us who got the same letter in the mail. In fact, you may have gotten even poorer because you may have purchased the magazines they were trying to sell you.

But in today's devotional verse, there is no fine print, it a matter of choosing and picking which part to read and claim out of God's word. Even the Apostles took what Jesus said out of context.

† **John 21:21-23** *Peter, seeing him (John), said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"*

They heard Jesus say "*If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.*" and they thought that John would not die until Jesus returned again. But they had to be corrected, because *Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"* (underlined for emphasis) Simply, mind your own business and focus on what I am doing in your life, and let Me take care of those others lives that I am working on.

So, reading today's verse, *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*, you can only truly say that if you *do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit*. And what does that mean? Paul goes on to tell us in verse 5.

† **Romans 8:5** *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.*

I like what Pastor Chuck Swindoll said, “*Before something happens in the bed, something happens in the head*” Referring to adultery or fornication (Sex outside of marriage), which fits perfectly with this portion of verse 5 ***those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh.***

So, for example, if you go out and have an adulterous affair with someone, you are living in the flesh, not in the Spirit, and if you are living in the flesh, then how can you say that you shouldn’t feel any condemnation? Sure, you may be in Christ Jesus, but you are still living in the flesh when you willfully sin, and this verse is very clear that the only way that you will not feel any ***condemnation*** is only if you ***are in Christ Jesus***, and that you ***do not walk according to the flesh.***

So reading it the other way, it would be, if you ***walk according to the flesh***, even if you are ***in Christ Jesus***, you will have, or feel ***condemnation***. Why, because if you are walking according to the Spirit, then you wouldn’t have that adulterous relationship, or not willfully commit any sin, it’s that simple. So we need to be cautious that we are not using God’s word as an excuse for our sins, or to justify them, and reading it out of context to make us feel good about what we just did... in the flesh.

Paul goes on to say:

† ***Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?***

† ***Romans 6:15-16 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?***

Simply, if you don’t want to feel condemnation, don’t walk in the flesh, but in the Spirit, and if you are feeling condemnation, maybe it’s because you are walking ***according to the flesh***, and not ***according to the Spirit***.

† ***Romans 8:5 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.***

† ***Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

† ***Galatians 5:24-25 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.***