

Free From Judgment, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 8:1-4.

B. The Bible says a lot about condemnation, but God does not want to leave men there. (John 3:17)

C. Through Christ there is no condemnation. (John 5:24, Mark 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:22, Galatians 3:10, 2 Thessalonians 1:8)

D. We deserve to be condemned.

1. We deserve to be condemned because we were a part of original sin. (Romans 5)

2. We deserve to be condemned by the essence of our personality. (Ephesians 2:3)

3. We deserve to be condemned by our deeds of sin.

E. There is something in us that wants to be right, but there is something in us that holds us back. (Romans 7)

II. The reality: believers have no condemnation because they are in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:13, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 2:1-2)

A. In Christ, man measures up to God's divine ideal.

B. Christ has paid for the sin debt.

C. We are still in the flesh, so there will still be repercussions in this life. However, there is no chance of losing our salvation.

III. The reason: justification.

A. There is no condemnation because the law of the Spirit of life has freed us from the law of sin and death.

B. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit who gives us life. (Titus 3:5)

C. The law refers to the gospel or the principle of saving faith. It is a law because it has demands. (Romans 3:27, Galatians 5:2, Acts 17, Romans 1:5, Hebrews 8)

D. Obedience is the mark of the believer and not of freedom from any law at all.

E. Sin has demands also. (Romans 3; 7:5-8; 6:15)

F. Sin's ability to condemn us has been eliminated. We have been justified. (1 Peter 1:15)

IV. The route: substitution.

- A. Christ took our place.
- B. The law could not break sin's power. (Galatians 3:21; Romans 7:10-11)
- C. There was nothing wrong with the law—the problem was the sinner. (Acts 13:39)
- D. One cannot keep the law by self-effort. The standard is tough. (James 2:10, Matthew 19:16)
- E. The law condemns sinners but it cannot ultimately condemn sin.
- F. God condemned sin in the flesh of Christ.

V. Conclusion. (John 12:31)

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that people are generally good and deserve heaven?

2. How would you explain justification to someone who has never heard of it?

3. Why is substitution necessary?
