



ROMANS 8:1-4

This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

HEART CHECK: BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Our CG sessions are where we actively apply God's Word to our lives and urge each other to live out the Gospel in all areas of our lives. In preparing to facilitate a session, it can be tempting to view the CG session as an intellectual exercise where we transmit content and information to our members, instead of a session where we can love and serve those in our CG by edifying and strengthening their faith.

Here is our loving challenge to you: the spirit in which we prepare to lead the study is as important as the outcome of our preparation -- God is concerned with our hearts far more than the product we deliver. Before we seek for others to be encouraged and convicted by the text, let's first desire for ourselves to hear how God might be speaking and convicting us through His word.

For recommendations on how we can use these resources and facilitate the session prayerfully and thoughtfully, check out our ["How to Use the CG Resources"](#) note.

1. SERIES OVERVIEW

A. Goal of Series

Since the pandemic began, our church has added many new members and grown tremendously. However, due to the restrictions and various health reasons, many have never been to physical service or had much interaction or fellowship with the people of our church family, aside from digital means. Whilst it's been exciting to grow during this period, we do not want to assume that the most important value of our church – Gospel Centrality, has been grasped by all who are at Redemption Hill Church. Therefore, we want to use this series to lay these foundations very clearly in the church. Some goals include:

- Teaching about the gospel itself, and what it means to be part of a community where the gospel is at the heart of all that we do.
- Laying out the basics and foundations of our faith very clearly and explicitly.
- Romans 8: This chapter elaborates on God's victory over our sin. God's grace is given to us in the here and now (the power of the Spirit, the certainty of the hope we have, the knowledge that all things are working for our good), and that we can live as conquerors here despite our sufferings.
- Romans 12: The letter shifts from the indicatives (what God has done for us) to the imperatives (how we are to respond to God). This chapter elaborates on how we must respond to God's mercies and how we are to live is to offer up our bodies as living sacrifices. It also demonstrates the reality of living out God's grace and love is how a church culture shaped by the gospel looks like.

B. Summary

Sinners are by nature in the flesh and therefore are in bondage to sin and death, unable to obey God and hostile towards Him. Those in the flesh are separated from God, and though they are biologically alive, they are “spiritually dead” and their final destiny is eternal death. Hence, no one remaining in the flesh will be able to live righteously, not even with the law as the law is not able to make anyone righteous but rather because of the nature of sin that rebels against God, it leads to even more unrighteousness.

However, God sent His Son to fulfil the righteous demand of the law, through His atoning death, both in passive and active obedience. The righteous obedience of the Son earned for us the gift of righteousness, which is the Spirit coming to set us free from the bondage of sin and death, at the same time to dwell in us. The Christian united to Jesus and indwelt by the Spirit is both righteous in identity, no longer condemned, and empowered to live righteously. Though Christians still exist physically in the passing old creation, they have the future and certain hope that God will raise them physically as Jesus has been resurrected by God because they no longer belonged to the old order of sin, flesh and death, but the new order of eschatological life and Spirit.

C. Big Idea (Romans 8:1-4)

The law cannot make us live righteously as we are in bondage to our sinful nature. Rather, it is the Spirit that comes to set us free from the bondage of sin and empower us with the righteousness of Christ as the Spirit of Christ dwells in us. Therefore, Christians are free from both the guilt and the power of sin and are no longer condemned.

D. CG Takeaway

For our CG to meditate on 1) our identity in the Holy Spirit makes us righteous before God 2) the implications of being free from the power of sin and condemnation both now and eternally.

E. Fallen Condition Focus

- Depending on ourselves rather than realising it is in the Holy Spirit that helps us to live righteous lives.

- Stricken by guilt not realising that we are no longer condemned when we are saved by Jesus
- Not laying ahold of the power to overcome the sin that is given to us when we are united to Jesus, and rather just responding cynically and in resignation to sinful temptations

Interpretation and Observation

(Read the text notes to have a comprehensive understanding and help for the answers for this section)

Read from Romans 7:7 to 8:4 to understand Paul's concern. Notice the word "therefore" used in the opening verse of Romans 8. What was the dilemma of Romans 7 that Romans 8 is trying to resolve?

What is the law of the Spirit and life, and how is it contrasted with what the law of sin and death is?

How was the law weakened by the flesh and what was it that the law "could not do" (v2-3)?

What does Paul mean when he says that God sent "His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh?"

How did the sending of God's own Son then accomplish what the law could not do? How does it lead us to be no longer condemned?

Gospel Applications:

A. Fallen condition:

What do we feel condemned by? What are some of the reasons that we struggle to believe Scripture that says we are no longer condemned?

"God does not condemn me, but I still condemn myself." Do you relate to this statement? What does it reveal about our hearts?

Paul states emphatically that Christians are free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death and walk according to the Spirit and not the flesh. What are some idols that we unconsciously or willingly submit to because we think they free us but actually enslave us? How do we see the

effects of these enslavements upon us?

B. Personal Renewal:

What does it mean for each of us personally that we are no longer condemned? How does this truth empower us to live in obedience and faith towards God instead of turning to that which enslaves us?

How does the gospel dispel the false trust in our own effort to live righteously?

C. Shaping Church Culture:

What are some signs of a church community that has internalised the truth that we are no longer condemned?

How does not being condemned encourage us to freely confess our sins to one another?