

Romans

WEEK 14 – AUG 30TH, 2015

LEARN

Romans 8:1-17 (NIV)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

MAIN IDEA

This summer, we're studying the first eight chapters of Romans in a series led by both of our teaching ministers, Jim Keller and Zach Van Dyke. In week 14, we considered the concept of freedom in the context of Romans chapter 8. Paul's letter to the Romans tells us that there is freedom in Christ... But what exactly does this mean for us? What has Christ set us free from? And more importantly, what has He set us free *for*?

THINK...

1. Do you feel free? In your day-to-day life, do you live free? What does living free mean/look like for you?
2. Zach explained that the Holy Spirit, who Christ promises to those who trust in Him (see John 14:16-17), is not a spirit of fear. The Holy Spirit does not motivate us through fear of missing out, fear of being punished, or fear of being rejected. How *does* the Holy Spirit move us and lead us to obey God's law?
3. Read Deuteronomy 3:16, Matthew 6:25-26, Romans 5:6, Psalm 51:17, Philippians 4:8, and 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What has God promised you, as His child, in each of these passages?

DISCUSS...

1. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." What does freedom that comes from the Spirit of God look like? How does obeying God's law bring us freedom?
2. Discuss the following statements: "Adoption is not a change in nature but a change in name. A change in name changes your nature." When you become a follower of Christ, you become a child of God, adopted as His son or daughter. How does the knowledge of the name you now bear change your nature?
3. Read John 8:1-11 aloud with your group. What was Jesus' command to the woman after the religious teachers dropped their stones and walked away? How would you respond if Jesus said these words to you?

NEXT STEPS

The religious leaders from John chapter 8 missed the fact that Jesus *did* fully enforce God's law. The death penalty was indeed carried out—but on the cross, it wasn't the adulterous woman who was put to death. Instead, Christ—the One who promised her that she would not be condemned—took her place. He took our place as well, and in doing so, Jesus set us all free. The question to ponder this week is: *What will you do with this freedom you've been given?*

If you're new to Summit... This summer, we've been walking through a church-wide study of the first half of Romans, which will conclude next week. For recommended studies, details about upcoming classes, information about getting involved in a Connect group, and more, visit summitconnect.org or stop by your campus Information Booth.

If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. —John 8:36