

ROMANS 8:1-39: LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

I. Introduction

Romans 8 represents perhaps one of the meatiest chapters in all of the New Testament scriptures. Many verses believers commonly quote today regarding our new life in the spirit originated from this chapter. Infact, some of these verses have become lyrics to popular gospel songs. For example, Don Moen's song titled "No condemnation" is a powerful confession drawn from the first two verses of Romans 8 that declared "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin & death!"

With this declaration to the church in Rome, Paul established a doctrine of equality between the Jewish and Gentile Christians. Jewish Christians needed to understand that Gentile believers are not to be condemned in any way. Beyond providing the theological context around salvation, here Paul also gives practical insights by stressing that the life of righteousness we have been called to can only be achieved through the help of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who empowers believers, guides us into all truth and helps us live holy lives.

Paul also addresses the issue of the righteous requirement of the law. Though the law itself is righteous, it could only just make us aware of our sinful nature. Paul introduces the concept of the Law of the Spirit which gives us life and replaces sin consciousness that stemmed from Adam's original sin. Indeed, the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God and so we can refer to God as "Abba."

The chapter concludes by beautifully highlighting the grace of God using verses 28-30 and the love of God using verses 38-39. He explains that it is the grace of God that calls us unto Himself and to His purpose. He foreknew, predestined, called, justified and ultimately glorified us by making us (the church) to be His bride. Glory be to God that His love is all encompassing and not even death or demons or any powers can separate us from the love of Christ.

II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Romans 8:1-39

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

III. Think Through the Following Questions:

1. How does the reality that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus impact your daily life and sense of security?
2. What is the significance of the term “Abba, Father” and how is it relevant to our identity and life as Christians today?
3. What does it mean that we are adopted children of God and how is it different from earthly adoption?
4. How can we rely more on the Holy Spirit in our prayer lives or in times of weakness?
5. Can you think of a time when God worked you through something difficult in your life and does verse 28 now have new meaning to you?
6. What is the meaning of the verse that says all of creation eagerly awaits the manifestation of the sons of God. Is this a reference to a singular primetime Christianity event?
7. What are some things that can make you feel separated from God’s love? Do verses 38-39 provide you any reassurance?
8. Practically speaking, how can we be sure to set our minds “on the things of the spirit” on a daily basis?

IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?

V. Application: How Do You think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?