

ROMANS

THE PROMISE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS



SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

THE BEAUTY OF “NO CONDEMNATION”

ROMANS 8:1-4

JAN. 4, 2015

TAKEAWAYS

Write out your one-sentence takeaways. Consider writing these on a notecard and putting it on your mirror, desk, or car dashboard.

What to remember:

What to put off/put on:

What to share with someone:

NEXT STEPS

Here are some next steps to walk in this truth this week. Don't feel constrained to these but feel free to use them.

- Memorize Rom. 8:1-4 this week.
- Attend at least one of the prayer week opportunities.
- Encourage someone via conversation, text, or email with the good news of Christ's atonement or the Spirit's help.
- Start each day this week with a reminder of Rom. 8:1 and then by asking God to help you walk in the Spirit today and not the flesh

FOR FURTHER STUDY

For those wanting to study some of the key ideas in more detail here are some cross-references and resources.

- **No condemnation:** John 3:18; Rom. 5:1; 1 Cor. 6:11; Gal. 2:16;
- **Condemning sin in Christ's flesh** (the cross): Rom. 3:21-26; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:24;
- **Setting the mind on the flesh or Spirit:** Matt. 16:23; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16-26; 6:18; Col. 2:23-3:5.
- Visit the College Park blog for resources to help with bible reading, prayer, and scripture memory. yourchurch.com/blog
- To help you grow in understanding “walking in the Spirit,” purchase one of the books on the Holy Spirit now available in the Resource Area (next to Guest Reception and the coffee).

APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION

These questions focus on the sermon text and message. We've highlighted key ones but use however many your group needs.

- 1. How does God's grace given to you—the fact that you are not and never will be condemned if you're in Christ—motivate gratitude, worship, and obedience? Why is God's grace to you a better motivation for obedience than the law or rules?**
- 2. Christ has set us free from the penalty of sin and by his Spirit has set us free from the power of sin. What are some ways—big or small—that you've experienced freedom in or through Jesus Christ?**
3. Romans 7 showed us the powerlessness of walking in the flesh but Romans 8 tells us how the Spirit empowers us to walk in obedience. Why is the Spirit so essential for the Christian life? How can you walk in the Spirit and not the flesh this week?
- 4. Walk through these six implications of the gospel in Romans 8. Discuss both how the gospel relates to them and how you will apply that this week.**
Worship
Prayer
Evangelism
Identity
Guilt
Godliness
5. What should our response be when we sin against God as a believer? How does our justification and the freedom from condemnation take off the chains of shame, guilt, and fear?
- 6. How does the gospel encourage us a community or group to speak the gospel to one another? How can we better remind one another of the forgiveness we have and the help of the Spirit in our lives?**

HOW TO PRAY

Pray over the praises and requests of those around you but here are some additional ways to pray into our passage this week.

- Confess ways you've relied upon your performance, good works, or law-keeping instead of God's grace.
- Thank God for forgiveness, for atonement, for the beauty of "no condemnation," for new life, and for the Spirit
- Ask God to revive your heart with gratitude and worship because of the freedom you have in Christ through his work.
- Ask God to help you walk in the Spirit this week and to say no to the flesh.