**ROMANS 8**

The thought of Romans 8 begins the CH 7:22…

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT**

**Romans 8:1** T*here is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

* What a relief, right?
* Condemnation will STILL come at us, but NOT FROM GOD!
* Vs 33,34 will ask “Who is it that condemns…?” HINT – Not God!
* Revelation 12:10 names Satan as “The Accuser” and that is what /he does. In the beginning, Genesis 3, he accused God… telling Eve that God had lied. Now he accuses us to God… BUT… God has planned an end to our accuser and it will not be pleasant for him.
* We can share in the joy of when the woman in John 8:11 heard these words from God the Son:

**“Neither do I condemn you…”**

* IF you are feeling condemned today, Brothers and Sisters in Christ… It is not Christ who is condemning you. It is either Satan or some lying self-talk.
* You MIGHT be feeling CONVICTION from the Holy Spirit, but not condemnation… Difference?
  + Condemnation DRIVES you from God while
  + CONVICTION Draws you TO GOD!

Conviction by God is an invitation…

Condemnation by Satan is a verdict…

And a false one at that for believers!

**LISTEN…**

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

* **CHUCK SMITH** – We are not sinners because we have sinned. We have sinned because we are sinners. Sin was standard equipment… It came with us when we were born… **PSALM 51:5**
* But…
* There is a law that is greater than the law of sin… I love how **COURSON** illustrates it:
* If you go to the airport, you'll see planes sitting on the runway. They're not going anywhere because the law of gravity is keeping them on the ground. But as soon as their engines are turned on, the law of aerodynamics takes over. Although gravity is still in effect and still pulls on the planes, there's a higher law, a more powerful force at work that allows them to overcome the law of gravity. That's what Paul is saying. We're free from this law of sin and death by possibility thinking? No. By positive mental imaging? No. We're free by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. He lives *in* us, enabling us to fly high and overcome the law of sin and death.
* Believe me… The law of sin is in me… BUT… The law of the Spirit in me is much stronger… It is up to me to CHOOSE it! ***I CHOOSE IT!*** Who else chooses it?
  + We choose to refuse to look at, listen to, buy – borrow – or rent anything that tempts our flesh to sin!
  + We choose to avoid places that tempt us.
  + We choose friends who help us choose the Spirit…
  + AND… We unfriend people who tempt us to sin…

**THE GREATER LAW**

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but ***(Choosing to live)*** according to the Spirit.

* **NLT** - 3 The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent His own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. 4 He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

**WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND…**

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

* We don’t condemn people – That is up to God… BUT… It doesn’t take long to discern if someone speaking around you has the mind of their flesh, or the mind of their Savior…. Right?
* The same holds true of OUR conversations… **WHAT DO I TALK ABOUT?**

**WHY THIS MATTERS…**

6 For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

* As sobering as V8 is… The opposite truth is simply glorious.
* God… In His unending mercy… has provided a path for us sinners to please Him. The path… Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
* Why did He? **Revelation 4:11** – **KJV** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, **and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**
* Listen… YOU…Are a pleasure to the Lord… Do you believe it? You can! You should!
* “Lord… Thank You for making me a pleasure to You!”

**WHO QUALIFIES? (Theology class is in)**

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**

* IF you have accepted Jesus as your Savior… YOU have the Holy Spirit!
* But wait… There is more!

10  **And** if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.  **NLT** - And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.

* **COURSON** - How are we to deal with these sinful tendencies, these carnal activities, habits, and thoughts? Paul gives us the key: The Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead is in us, and He'll live His life through us.
* **Some call the Holy Spirit their “Higher Power” and they are right**!
* HE is greater than Sin… He is greater than addiction… He is greater than obsession… He is greater than the abuse in our past… He is even greater than the gnawing doubts and fears that sometimes invade our minds…

**HE IS LIFE!**

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

* We love to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We hike up Mt. McCoy… We worship… We repeat an Easter Mantra: He is risen, He is risen indeed! Easter egg hunts, Special meals, New outfits, Greetings…
* BUT… That same glorious day is also OUR RESURRECTION too. Because HE lives… I can face tomorrow… Because JESUS defeated death, Death has no hold on me… We can live fearlessly! (Or at least we should)

**HEIRS WITH CHRIST**

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, (**SIN)** you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

* We teach our kids to sing: “If You’re saved and you know it… Then your life will surely show it…”
* That too, is good theology!
* One more thing…

**PAPA**

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

* Some of you are adopted by parents who CHOSE you…
* THAT is the case for us and our Heavenly Father… BUT… there were consequences to being adopted in Paul’s day…
* **GUZIK** - Under Roman adoption, the life and standing of the adopted child changed completely. The adopted son lost all rights in his old family and gained all new rights in his new family; the old life of the adopted son was completely wiped out, with all debts being canceled, with nothing from his past counting against him anymore.

SO… When we call God “Papa…” we are in essence cancelling our home and citizenship on earth and declaring that our NEW home is in God’s house.

We will begin with Verse 15 next week but, in the meantime… practice calling out to “Papa.” It IS familiar… It might be uncomfortable for YOU at first…

BUT… It is also what GOD wants… He wants to be your heavenly “Papa!”