



GOD'S FELLOWSHIP – MIND CONTROL (13)

START HERE:

If Romans 4:25-5:11 is a summary of God's rescue story (see previous devo), then Romans 8 is a summary of what it means to live new life in Christ. Paul's bold statement in verse 1 is that there is no condemnation for those who are "in Christ" (or those who "belong to Christ"). The rest of the chapter explains this doctrine (see "Extra Things" for more on what doctrine is).

After the detailed explanation, Paul restates his point in verse 34 by asking a question, just to make sure his listeners and readers really understand. "Let's see if you get it," Paul seems to say. "If you belong to Christ, who will condemn you?" The answer is just what he said back in verse 1.

No one!

For Jesus died for us, was raised to life for us, and now sits in a place of honor at God's right hand pleading for us, all while his Spirit lives in us to guide us, transform us, and give us power to overcome sin.

Paul's letters can be tricky – not because the ideas are too difficult to understand, but because he packs so much into each letter. In order to help all his readers understand, he often repeats his ideas in slightly different wording. And he often circles back to his original idea.

If you don't read carefully, you can get confused, tangled, or lost in the words. But if you read thoughtfully, with other people, paying attention to what the verses actually say, and asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom as you read, you can start making sense of Paul's letter to the Romans, little by little.

READ THIS: Romans 8:1-18

THINK ABOUT:

Paul's main idea in these verses is that there is "no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST." He then lays out a careful comparison of people **controlled by the sinful nature** and people **controlled by the Holy Spirit**. Make a list of what Paul says about each of those categories.

SINFUL NATURE

HOLY SPIRIT

What do you learn about each of these things from this passage:

Truth about God:

Truth about Jesus Christ:

Truth about the Spirit:

Truth about God's children:

AM: Today, reflect on this truth: The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead **lives in you!**

PM: Today, how did you experience the Spirit's power in your life?

Dear Lord, Thank you for sending Christ to redeem me. Thank you for adopting me as your own beloved child. Thank you for giving me your Spirit to fill and empower me. Teach me to understand the depth of all these truths. Amen.

EXTRA THINGS

*Some people see the word **doctrine** and think, "Oh no, here we go with the dull and narrow-minded religious stuff."*

Christian doctrines are simply statements of truth about God, humanity, and the world, based on what the Bible teaches.

Doctrines are beliefs put into words.

Knowing doctrine isn't enough. We need to know God himself. But without doctrine, we can go off-track easily and quickly.

A few basic Christian doctrines are:

God is 3-in-1.

Jesus is fully God and fully human.

Creation is good, but sin spoils it.

God provides a rescue for people through the sacrifice of Jesus.

The Bible is God's inspired word and contains truth, wisdom, & guidance.

EXTRA VERSES

EXTRA STUFF

Listen to Phil Wickham's "Safe in His Arms" [HERE](#).