

ROMANS 8

1. Instead of worshiping God who gave the Law, what were the Jews doing?

-They were worshiping the Law.

-They were worshiping their obedience to the Law.

2. Where does the problem with laws begin?

-When people worship laws instead of God.

-When people look to laws for salvation instead of God.

3. What is the example God and Paul give us to help us to understand the Law?

-A woman and her husband.

4. What are God and Paul teaching us with this example?

-When a woman is married to her husband, she is under his authority.

-If, however, her husband dies, then she is no longer under his authority.

5. What does “made to die” mean?

-It means that Christians have been put to death.

6. Who has put Christians to death?

-God.

7. To what have Christians been put to death?

-To the Law.

8. What does it mean that Christians have been put to death to the Law?

-That God has freed all Christians from the authority of the Law.

8. What does it mean that Christians have been freed from the authority of the Law?

-God has freed us from the burden of keeping rules in order to be accepted by God.

-God had freed us from the burden of keeping rules in order to be saved.

10. Why is it important for us to be freed from the authority of the Law?

-Because the Law demands perfection, but gives us no help to obey it.

-Because those under the Law can never please God, and are therefore, always condemned.

11. What does Paul mean when he says that he is “of flesh”?

-This means that Paul and Christians are no longer IN the flesh, but that the flesh is still a part of our lives.

12. What happens when we are free from the Law?

-We are no longer under the control of having to obey the Law.

-We are no longer under the control of sin, death, and Satan.

-We are now free to allow God to control our lives.

-In the beginning of chapter 8, God and Paul teach us that life is completely different if we have died to the Law and are married to Jesus.

Let's read Romans 8:1

1-Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

-What is the best news in the world that God and Paul are teaching us in Romans 8:1?

-God will never condemn those who believe in Christ.

-What is condemnation?

-Condemnation is death.

-Why do most people not understand sin and how it condemns us to death?

-Because they do not understand how holy God is

-Because they do not understand how evil sin is.

-From Romans 8:1, we can say that there are only two types of people in the world. Who are these people?

-Those who are condemned because of their sin.

-Those whom God will never condemn.

-For Christians, this truth is one of the most important

truths in all of eternity.

-Even though Christians may continue to sin, God will never condemn us for our sins.

-Even the weakest Christian shares in complete and eternal freedom from sin's condemnation.

-What does Jesus promise us in John 8:36?

-“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

-Even though Jesus has set us free, some Christians still feel condemned by God.

-This is a lie of Satan and the flesh.

-If God says that Christians are no longer condemned, then we must believe this.

-If God says that Christians are no longer condemned, then we must ask God to help us to believe this.

-The degree to which we understand the condemnation of sin will be the same degree that we will understand how Christ has set us free.

-If we understand only a little about the condemnation of sin, we will only understand a little how much Christ has freed us.

-If, however, we understand greatly how much sin has condemned us to eternal death, then we will understand greatly how much Christ has set us free.

-In these next verses, God and Paul speak of two laws.

Let's read Romans 8:2-4

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.

-What are the two laws which God and Paul speak of?

-The law of sin and death and the law of the Spirit.

-What is the law of sin and death?

-It is the Old Testament Law of God.

-The Old Testament Law of God is holy and good.

-Therefore, how can the Old Testament Law of God be a law of sin and death?

-Because no one can perfectly keep the law, the result is sin and death.

-What is the law of the Spirit?

-Our new life in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

-What has the law of the Spirit done for Christians?

-Set us free from the law of sin and death.

-If we believe in Christ, the law of the Spirit has completely and forever freed us from sin and death.

-This means that we are no longer under condemnation of sin and death, but now live according to the Spirit.

-In Romans 8:3, the Word of God says, "He condemned sin in the flesh." What does this mean?

-It means that God has judged sin to be unworthy to be a part of our lives.

-It means that God has judged sin to be unworthy to rule our lives.

-It means that God took away sin as the owner of our lives.

-This is only possible in Christ.

-In Christ, our spirit is one with the Spirit of Christ, and we allow the Spirit to guide our lives.

-As Christians, we are not simply identified with Christ, but more than that, we are a part of Christ, and He is a part of us.

-As Christians, we are not simply united WITH Christ, but more than that, we are united IN Christ.

-While this truth is difficult for us to understand now, we will understand when we see Christ in heaven.

-Like blood runs through our bodies, Christ runs through our soul.

-Before, God and Paul spoke of two laws.

-Now, God and Paul speak of two natures.

Let's read Romans 8:5-6

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.

-In these verses, are God and Paul comparing two types of Christians?

-No.

-How do we know this?

-Because Romans 8:6 tells us that the mind governed by the flesh ends in death, and Christians will not die.

-What are the two natures which God and Paul speak of?
-The flesh and the Spirit.

-Does this mean that people have two natures?

-No.

-No one can have two natures.

-What are God and Paul comparing here?

-They are comparing the nature of Christians with the nature of non Christians.

-What is the nature of Christians?

-The Spirit of God.

-What is the nature of non Christians?

-The flesh.

-In Lesson 6, we learned of the world, the flesh, and Satan.

-We have died with Christ, buried with Christ, and resurrected with Christ, yet the flesh on the outside continues to bother us.

-In Lesson 7, we learned that Christians are “OF” flesh, but no longer “IN” flesh.

-There is nothing good about our flesh. It is called the “body of death,” and remains a part of our lives, outside the door.

-Now, in Lesson 8, we learn that the nature of non Christians is flesh, and that the mind governed by flesh is death.

-What are the three major definitions of the word “flesh” in the Bible?

-One: Our human body.

-Two: For non Christians, their sinful nature.

-Three: For Christians, their old habits before being saved.

-The first definition of “flesh” is easy to understand, and means our human body.

-The second definition of “flesh” is only for non Christians, and means their sinful nature.

-This is what God and Paul are comparing.

-They are comparing non Christians who are governed by their flesh, and will die with Christians who are governed by the Spirit of God and will not die.

-The third definition is the most difficult, and means the old habits and ways of the Christian.

-Before we become Christians, we have a sinful nature, live apart from God, and learn behavior apart from God.

-When we become Christians, God replaces our sinful nature with the nature of Christ, and the Spirit of Christ lives in us.

-Yet, we still have old habits or old ways and a lack of belief from our life before Christ.

-And these old habits or old ways and a lack of belief in God continue to bother us.

-This is the meaning of the word “flesh” for Christians.

-When you read the word “flesh” in the Bible, here is a help for you:

-One: Decide if it is the human body. If not, continue.

-Two: Decide if it is the sinful nature of non Christians. If not, continue.

-Three: It is our old habits or old ways and a lack of belief before we were saved by Christ.

Let's read Romans 8:5-6 again

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.

-Whom are God and Paul comparing here?

-God and Paul are comparing Christians with non Christians.

-The key here is to understand how our thoughts are governed or controlled.

-For those who are governed by the flesh or sin, what is the result?

-Death.

-For those who are governed by the Spirit of God, what is the result?

-Life and peace.

-From time to time, it is true that Christians yield to the flesh.

-But for the Christian, our thoughts and our lives are governed by the Spirit of God.

-What does it mean to live according to the flesh?

-To live independently of God.

-To live in dependence on oneself.

-To live with oneself as one's own god.

Let's read Romans 8:7

7-The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

-When a person and his mind are governed by the flesh and sin, what is their life like?

-They and their minds are hostile to God.

-They and their minds do not want to submit to God.

-They and their minds cannot submit to God.

-This verse helps us to understand that non Christians are enemies of God.

-Even though non Christians may think that they are good people, they are, in reality, enemies of God.

-If we do not believe in God according to God's way, then we are enemies of God.

-This is the problem of all of the rest of the world's religions.

-They say that they believe in God.

-But in reality, they believe in a god which is according to their own making, and not according to God's way.

-We must believe in God according to God's way or that which God Himself has established.

-This verse also helps us to understand why a non believer cannot believe in God by himself.

-It is because the flesh or the sinful nature cannot submit to God.

-It is impossible for the sinful nature to submit to God.

-A non-believer can only submit to God with God's help.

-This is why we should pray for non Christians when we talk with them, so that God would help them to believe.

Let's read Romans 8:8

8-Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

-God has given life to all people so that we might please Him.

-But if you are not a Christian, you cannot please God.

-Even though Christians sin, we are pleasing to God.

-This should comfort us very much.

-If we want to be even more pleasing to God, then let us allow our God to have complete control of our lives.

-As for non Christians, they can try very hard to please God, but if they do not believe in Christ, they can never be pleasing to God.

Let's read Romans 8:9

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.

-This is another verse which helps us to understand that God and Paul are comparing Christians with non Christians.

-Is it possible for someone to believe in Jesus, but not have the Holy Spirit living in him?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one.

-Just as God the Father and Jesus are one, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one.

-Some people think that when you believe in Christ, you must wait for a time before the Holy Spirit comes to you.

-This is not true.

-Romans 8:9 tells us very clearly that if we believe in Christ, we have the Spirit of Christ who is the Holy Spirit.

-If, however, the Holy Spirit is not living in someone, then that person does not belong to Jesus.

Let's read Romans 8:10-11

10-But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the [spirit is alive] 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.

-Why do our bodies die even though we have been born again and the Holy Spirit is living in us?

-Because we still have the same body when we were born as a descendant of Adam.

-Because our bodies still have death in them because sin is still active in our bodies.

-Even though our bodies still have death in them, the spirit of the Christian has eternal life.

-This is because of the Holy Spirit who lives in us, and who has become one with us.

-Will the bodies of Christians just die and decay and never be saved from death?

-No.

-Our bodies will be resurrected from death by the Holy Spirit.

Let's read Romans 8:12-13

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.

-Why are believers no longer under obligation to let sinful desires use their bodies?

-Because through Jesus we have died to sin as our master.