



# Beyond belief

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8 & John 8: **freedom.**

Today our core verse is from Romans 8...

## **Romans 8:1**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Too many Christians today live their lives with the debilitating sense of guilt.

Maybe it stems from a childhood where we only heard about God's wrath,  
or maybe it comes from an overbearing parent who had unrealistic expectations,  
or maybe it's an internal sense that we are not good enough.

**But too many of us live our lives with an overwhelming sense of guilt.**

We go about our daily lives and keep up a good outward appearance, but in those quiet times alone

when we reflect on our lives we settle into a place of guilt and remorse.

If that describes you today, I want you to hear this...

**Romans 8:1**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

**FREEDOM**

In Christ we are free from sin and that makes us free from guilt.

**When we continue to live with  
GUILT we are actually living  
under law not GRACE.**

**Romans 8:2**

<sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

**THE LAW SAYS HERE'S YOUR  
SIN... DEAL WITH IT.**

And that leaves us with a sense of guilt, because we cannot on our own overcome sin.

**GRACE SAYS HERE'S YOUR  
SIN... LET JESUS DEAL WITH IT!**

And that should leave us with a sense of FREEDOM because Jesus sacrifice completely covers our sin.

Jesus sacrifice completely and forever covers our sins. That's not a license to sin, that's an incentive not to continue in sin.

## **Romans 8:11-13**

<sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>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.

Here's the problem... we believe our deeds and desires determine our identity. We sinned, so we must be sinners.

Mark Moore, Core 52...

Our identity is in our created nature,  
not our fallen nature.

We were created by God; therefore, we're His children. We were redeemed by Jesus; therefore, we're his possession. We are filled with the Holy Spirit; therefore, we're saints.

**Romans 8:14-15**

<sup>14</sup>For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup>The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

The Greek word for the phrase “adoption to sonship” is a term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture. In other words when you are adopted into God’s family you become a full heir with all the benefits and inheritance.

Sometimes we look at this world and say, “I am free to live how I want to live. No rules or requirements here, I can do what I want.”

The problem is, that’s not really freedom. We are still confined to a system in this world that only leads to eternal prison.



That's not freedom.

Instead, by accepting God's grace through Jesus we find true freedom. With all the rights and privileges of the God of this universe.

We can become heirs of all the richness of the kingdom of God. No longer slaves to sin.

Remember our core verse?

**Romans 8:1**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Free from sin. Free from the guilt of sin.

God is for us, not against us. He has been working things out for our good since the beginning of time. Before the foundation of the earth were laid, God has been working.

What's the song? "He Never stops, never stops working."

As a matter of fact listen to what Paul says here in Romans 8...

**Romans 8:28**

<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

If we continue to stay in God's will, in accordance with God's purpose, then God is working things out for our eternal benefit.

He's not up in heaven waiting for us to fail. He's not holding lightning bolts ready to strike us when we make a mistake.

He's working for our good.

**Romans 8:29-30**

<sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the

firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup>And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

God is eternal, therefore He lives in all time... at all times. And that means that he knows how things are going to turn out.

He ordains things or He puts His blessing on things.

He calls us, then justifies us, then ultimately we are glorified.

### **Romans 8:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge

against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.  
<sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

Who then is the one who condemns?

You remember the story of the woman brought to Jesus in John 8?

**John 8:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup>and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

The Jewish leaders bring a woman to Jesus, and accuse her. The text says she is caught in adultery. (My first question is, "Where is the man?" If she was caught in the act, there should be two guilty parties.) So we know from the beginning, this is a set-up, these leaders are trying to trick Jesus.

**John 8:5-6a**

<sup>5</sup>In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup>They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

The Old Testament Law prescribed death for people guilty of adultery (*see Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22*). Here's the trap... was Jesus going to insist on the strict application of this command in this particular case, or would he refuse to do so—and thus discredit himself in the eyes of the more rigid people, such as these religious leaders and their fans?

### **John 8:6b-7**

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

I don't know what Jesus wrote in the dirt. Maybe it was the times and places where the accusers had been involved in a similar sin.

**John 8:8**

<sup>8</sup>Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

This time whatever Jesus is writing gets their attention...

**John 8:9**

<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.



One by one those who had tried to use this woman to trap Jesus walked away.

Listen to what happens next...

**John 8:10**

<sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

The KJV reads this way... *"he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?"*

Who is here to accuse you?

**John 8:11**

<sup>11</sup> "No one, sir," she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Without anyone there to accuse this woman, she is free to go. No one there to accuse? Not pronounced guilty.

Did the woman actually have sin? Probably so. Was she really an adulterer? Could be.

But get this... when it comes to Jesus – **it is less about us and our sin and more about Jesus and His ability to overcome sin.**

Core verse...

## Romans 8:1

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

We do have a responsibility when it comes to sin, what did Jesus tell this woman?

## John 8:11

<sup>11</sup> "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. **"Go now and leave your life of sin."**

Trust Jesus. Leave your life of sin. Live in freedom.

## Romans 8:34

<sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Jesus is our defense attorney. He is at the right hand of the Father advocating for us. For those who are in Christ... there is no one to condemn, only Jesus who intercedes for us to the judge.

One final thing... Why?

### **Romans 8:35-39**

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Why? Because God loves us. He is not here to condemn, rather to forgive.

# SG Leader Questions

1. What is something that you have done that weighted you down with guilt? What did you do to overcome that thing? Did you seek forgiveness?
2. Read Romans 8:1 - what are some great promises we read in this verse?
3. Our identity is in our recreated identity in Christ? What are some things that make us forget about this fact?
4. What are some reasons we have difficulty in letting go of burden of guilt?
5. Is there a difference between accusing someone of sin in their life and accountability? If so, what is the difference? Should we point out sin in a fellow believer's life?