**Romans 8:1-17 – The Work Of God In Our Life**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* **Romans 8** focuses on the Holy Spirit’s work in the life of a Christian. He shows us that we are God’s children, and He helps us to live our new life that we have in Christ.
* In this chapter Paul also clearly defines parameters of who and who is not a Jesus follower.

**The Work Of God In Our Lives**

**We are not under God’s judgment as His children – vss. 1-3**

* Three key words in **vs. 1** are “in Christ Jesus.” We are not under God’s judgment because of our relationship with Christ.
* The word “no” is important. It means not one bit of judgment will come on us who are Christians because of our relationship with Christ.
* The Spirit of God has set us free from the “law of sin and death” **(vs. 2)**. This describes our sinful tendencies and because we are “in Christ Jesus” we are “free” (set at liberty from another’s control”
* God has stepped in and freed us from sin’s power and control.
* **Vs. 3** tells us that the OT law could not save us, so Jesus came to earth in the flesh **(Jn. 1:14)** to do what we could not.

**\*\* Could Jesus have sinned?**

* The question comes up because some people think that temptation, to be real, requires the possibility of someone sinning. I disagree with that. We can be tempted but not respond in a sinful way.
* Jesus was tempted **(Mt. 4)**. He was 100% Man, but He was also 100% God. His divine nature always ruled His decisions.
* The Bible says He was sinless **(Jn. 8:46; 1 Peter 2:22)**. See also **Heb. 4:15; 1 Jn. 3:5**.
* It is how we respond to temptations that is the key **(Jam. 1:13-15)**. Jesus responded to the temptations to sin in **Mt. 4** with the Word of God and Who He was.

**The Spirit helps us live who we are in Christ – vss. 4-11**

* **Vs. 4** tells us that we could not keep the law nor was it intended to help us earn salvation. We fulfill the law when we love God and others **(Mt. 22:37-40)**.
* We are called to live holy **(1 Peter 1:15-16)** and can only do that with the Holy Spirit’s help.
* We, as followers of Jesus, do not “walk” (conduct, act) according to the flesh **(vs. 4)**. Sin dwells in our flesh and there is a conflict within us **(Gal. 5:16-26)**, but God helps us to live the life He has given us.
* **Vss. 5-8** show that there are two types of people in the world.
* **Vs. 5** shows that some people live under the power of sin, others under the Holy Spirit’s leading.
* Christians stumble but we cannot “walk according to the flesh.”
* The idea of “setting our minds” **(vs. 5)** means “to direct our minds, seek or strive for” things that are either worldly or spiritual.
* **Vs. 6** tells us that the one who has their mind set on the Spirit, being controlled by God, has “life and peace.” No matter the situation, God is with us. We have a new life in Him, a promise of a future.
* The first part of **vs. 7** describes a person who does not know God. Note the word “hostile.” **Vs. 8** tells us that those who are “in the flesh” cannot please God.
* **Vss. 9-11** shows the contrast of the two types of people. Christians have the Spirit of God living in them.

**God’s unbreakable promise – vss. 12-17**

* We are, as Christ followers “debtors” (held by obligation, bound to a duty) to live under the control of the Holy Spirit.
* **Vs. 13** reminds us to live who we are “in Christ.” See **Eph. 4; Col. 3:1-17**. Sin and its power has been defeated. We can “put to death” the sins that have already been dealt with. God’s Spirit lives in us.
* How do we know that we are being “led” by the Spirit of God **(vs. 14)**. Are we convicted of sin? Do we desire to study the Bible and know God? Are we willing to serve where He leads us? Do we show the fruit of the Spirit?
* **Vs. 15** is a great verse that shows us how much God cares for us. The word “Abba” is Aramaic, and it is a term of endearment and intimacy. God loves us unconditionally and cares immensely for us.

**A few thoughts to take with us:**

**1) We must not excuse behavior that we know dishonors God.**

**2) Develop tunnel vision.** We must not be blind to the culture around us, but we must focus on God.

**3) Learn to let God love us.** He wants to hear us talk to Him. He wants us to know Him.