

The best “No”

Romans 8:1-4

“No” is quick to be used!

- Easy to learn and use
 - Toddler – No!!!
 - Teenager – no more phone-time
 - “No” everywhere – house, road, shops
 - Laws in the Bible – no gods, no killing

Positive “no”?

- Imagine a positive “no”?
- There’s one in the Bible, found in Rom 8:1

Romans 8:1-4 (NIV)

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

Romans 8:1-4 (ESV)

- There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8 in context

- Context is important
- Paul starts with “therefore”
 - Broader context: Romans 1-7 – sinners saved by grace, not law
 - Historical context: Judaism’s rules/regulations
 - Immediate context: Romans 7
- Is there hope? Yes, freedom is offered by Christ
- Romans 7:4-6 & 21-25

Romans 7:4-6; 21-25a

- ⁴ Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.
- ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- And then follows the “therefore” ...

Therefore ... NO condemnation!

- The Good News: Jesus came & died to set us free
- For those who know Jesus Christ, there is no more condemnation

A life of “no condemnation”

Three aspects of salvation

1 Requirement to have “no condemnation”

- There’s a condition, but not keeping laws
- “...no condemnation for **those who are in Christ Jesus**” (v1)
- Ephesians 1:3-4 “...God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world”
- “In Christ” = believing/receiving Jesus Christ
- Result: **Total** forgiveness, “no condemnation”
- Those not in Christ, are condemned (John 3:18)

2 Implementation of “no condemnation”

- “No condemnation” comes from God...
- **Spirit** of life sets us free (v2)
- **God** took the initiative (v3a); Eph 2:8 “*It’s by grace...*”!
- God sent His Son, **Jesus** (3b); Phil 2:6-8 “*form of a slave*”
- Jesus fulfilled the **requirements** of the Law (4a)

3 Consequence of “no condemnation”

- Paul adds v4b to ensure we know the outcome
- “...*who **walk** not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit*”
- “Walk” = the journey of life, living with Christ as Lord
- Obedience, love, submission to God

Response

- **Lost, struggling sinner:** *Accept Jesus as Saviour*
- **Doubting Christian:** *Don't let Satan mislead you (1 John 1:8-9)*
- **Truly free Christian:** *Rejoice, live for Jesus, avoid laws*

Prayer