

Romans 8:1-4
The Flesh & the Spirit

V1=Therefore= refers to all that Christ has accomplished in his death burial & resurrection. You are "In Christ Jesus"= our position before God

Christ Jesus is in you= God's presence in us.

V1= "No Condemnation"

Two Greek words in NT.

1)**Katagnosko**=to know something against; thus to think ill of.

2)**Katakrima**= the prison sentence passed down by a Judge; penal servitude

This is Paul looking back @ 7:24 "*wretched man that I am.*" He was like a prisoner sitting in a jail cell with the door wide open, his ankle chains unlocked, but he still sees himself as a prisoner and will not walk in freedom.

The difference between 7:24 & 7:25 is both **revelation & faith.**

Many believers live in 7:24, wretched & defeated because they either do not know or will not believe that resurrection life is in them for victory.

We are set free

V2-3= What the law could not do- Rules & self help religion could never produce righteousness.

Christ is our righteousness see 1st Cor.1:30

Note: The Law is only as strong as our flesh= weak=an area of no strength

The Flesh

Literally=means the body with its 5 senses to contact the "outside" world.

Symbolically "the flesh" is an all inclusive term for the sin nature, the old man, sin, & self. Paul uses all these words to describe who we are "in Adam."

1. **The flesh can be evil**= It can be very dark, and obviously demonic

2. **The flesh can be good & godlike**, but underneath the outward goodness is self centered & self serving motivation.

Example: Paul as a rabbi before meeting his Messiah.

V3b= Christ was sent as a sin **offering to condemn** Sin "in the flesh"

Result= The cross put to death "sin" [our sin nature] in the flesh!!

Thus we are no longer helpless prisoners defeated and imprisoned by our flesh.

Walking in the Spirit...

V4 In order that=a purpose clause. God's purpose in sending Christ was that He [Christ] might live His sinless life "in" us.

V4= "in" us NOT "by" us. What a difference two letters can make in your theology!!

By us= Religion based on works & the flesh

In us= Resurrection life of the Messiah living out Kingdom values in and thru His subjects!!

1. Walking in the Spirit means=

Gal 2:20=Not I, but Christ. I have a choice today, my life or His. My love or His, My goodness or His grace!

See Eph. 5: 18-22

See Gal 5:22, 7 25

2. Walking in the Spirit = our moment by moment dependence on Him to be your life. [Faith]