

ACCESS

The Christian Conundrum

Romans 8:1-4

The struggle is **REAL**

7:14-25

My **MIND** – ‘I love God and desire to **PLEASE** Him!’

My **FLESH** – ‘I love to please my selfish **PROPENSITIES**’

Battle **WITHIN** between the His Spirit and my flesh

Gal. 5:17

The struggle is not **CONDEMNED**

8:1; 5:1-2

NO **REJECTION**, **ABANDONMENT** by God

NO **ANGER** toward us by God

NO **PUNISHMENT** inflicted by God

The struggle is no longer **OVERPOWERING**

8:2-3

Salvation has ‘set you **FREE**’ from its **CONTROL**

Jesus’ work has changed our **IDENTITY**

My struggles no longer **DEFINE** me

Jesus’ work breaks the **CHAINS** of bondage

6:1-2, 12-13

My **ENSLAVEMENT** to sin is liberated

The struggle is **REVERSED**

8:4; 12:1-2

We formally struggled to stop doing **BAD** things

We now struggle to keep doing **PLEASING** things

Life Group Discussion Questions – October 3, 2021

Galatians 5:17 *For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want.*

DISCOVER (Read Romans 8:1-4)

1. Have you ever been judged? How did it feel? Why do people dislike being judged so much? What is the difference between judgment and condemnation?
2. In verse 1, what does the word “therefore” indicate? What is the connection point between these verses to the previous verses? (see Romans 7:14-25)
3. What is the “law of the Spirit of life”? What does “the Law” in verse 3 refer to? What was it that the Law could not do?
4. In your words, how do you define the “Christian Conundrum” that Pastor Phil talked about?

EXPLORE

1. According to the law of Old Testament, why was it necessary to sacrifice thousands of animals? Didn’t the sacrifices take away sins? (see Hebrews 9:18-26)
2. There is a separation of those who live according to their sinful nature (the unsaved) and those who live according to the Spirit of God (the saved). What differences might we observe in a marriage in longevity (successful to the world) that is lived in the flesh vs. a marriage that is lived according to influence of the Holy Spirit? What might this look like in the workplace?
3. “God understands my struggles, otherwise He would have to condemn His Son as well.” Do you agree with this statement? Keep in mind that though Jesus became sin itself and was condemned to death He did not stay in the grave. Condemnation is the ultimate penalty of eternal separation from the Father. (see Romans 8:3; Hebrews 4:15)

EXPERIENCE

1. There is no condemnation for us because the Cross of Christ freed us to live by the Holy Spirit. We must be able to say in confidence, “I am a saint who sins.” If we truly believe this then why do we still get the feeling that we are “never enough”? What will it finally take for you to walk in complete freedom through Christ?
2. If we walk according to the Spirit, we are pleasing God. How can you please God in a way that you’ve not known before? Why is merely putting a stop to doing bad things “not enough”?
3. The question is not whether or not we are walking in the Spirit but rather, does the Holy Spirit possess us? If He doesn’t possess you then perhaps the Holy Spirit doesn’t have access to you. What are some areas in your life that you have not given complete access to God? How can your Life Group help you gain a victory in Christ?

PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Father in heaven, thank You for forgiving my sins. By Your Spirit, keep me focused on You and not things of this world. Help me to live a life of “no condemnation” and be an example to others.

Action... If walking in the flesh is self-centeredness, then walking in the Spirit is God-centeredness. What one thing can you do every day this week that intentionally takes off the flesh and puts on Christ? (see Ephesians 4:22-24)