

Romans 7:7 - 8:1

Pray a prayer of thanks to God because he has truly made sin powerless against those *in Christ!*

Read Romans 7:7-8:1

Look Closer... Paul is not talking about his current experience with sin, he is actually using the history of Israel with the law to explain the general human relationship to sin. So while we can draw some parallels to our own lives from this passage, the main point that Paul wants to make about you and me (those who are *in Christ*) is that “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (8:1)!

Everything before that is Paul speaking as a representative of Israel. This was a common way to write in Paul’s day, and it was useful for the point he has been making all along. He is trying to show the goodness of the law in that it points to and leads to Jesus, but that it was also used by sin and death to condemn those who knew the law.

Think about it... We work hard to do good, but our striving to do good is not like the kind of striving under the law. We are in Christ, which means there can be no condemnation! Paul was serious about dying to sin; you and sin are bound together no longer! You are not told “no” by the law, but “yes” by the Spirit of God who is working in you!

So we strive for goodness like this: prayer in the Spirit, hearing the Word of God taught, loving friendship with other believers, helping others grow and being helped by others, serving the needy, and taking communion and worship. That is a life of joy, a life of receiving. There is zero condemnation for us, but only the freedom to press forward in our life with God.

Pray about it... Sometimes we allow guilt to sit in our hearts for too long, making it feel as if we deserve condemnation. But this is not a righteous or good feeling, it is actually anti-gospel. Guilt should drive us to prayer, seeking forgiveness, not loneliness that seeks condemnation. So pray that God would take away the feeling of guilt so that you could join the church who, in freedom, is pressing forward to bearing more fruit by the Spirit of God.