



Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Romans 8

Sanctification in Christ

Romans reveals how God “**made us righteous**”
and then “**sanctified**” us through Christ

Justification

Rom 1-3 makes the case that all mankind - Jew or gentile - is found guilty as unrighteous sinner

Rom 3.21- Rom 5 Righteousness has now been accomplished through God’s ‘justifying’ work in Christ

Sanctification

Rom 6 Baptized in union with Christ’s death and resurrection testifies to our **Knowing** the ‘old man’ has been crucified, **Reckoning** upon this truth as we live by faith in the ‘new man’ and then freely **Presenting** the members our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness

Romans 6-8: God's Work of Sanctification

1. **Objective side** of sanctification: **Rom 6** is the objective Word of truth on how the finished work Christ Jesus has accomplished our sanctification
 - the truth of our full salvation is that we are cut us off from the old man and set free to live in Christ is our foundation
2. **Subjective side** of sanctification: **Rom 7-8** works out the necessary experience of sanctification as it takes the Word of truth and **applies the cross** as we move from the **knowledge** of our position to the progressive stages of **experience** of sanctification starting from within
 - Paul himself confesses his personal crisis over Sin and the flesh after being a christian causing him to cry out, “**O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**”
3. **HPOV**: as we progress in sanctification our minds are renewed away from being preoccupied with **our** justification, redemption, and sanctification as we realize how important our union with Christ is **for God** in completing His purposes

HPOV: Overview of Romans 8

Sanctification by the Spirit

1. Rom 8.1-13 a new Law: the Holy Spirit sanctifies us spirit, soul, and body

2. Rom 8.14-28 the new Way: the Holy Spirit “comes alongside” and groans with us in hope as we pass through the our transforming tribulation

3. Rom 8.29-30 the predestined goal; Sonship

4. Rom 8.31-39 the new Covenant: His promise to love and never let go until He glorifies Christ in us



Reviewing Romans 7: The So-called 'Second Crisis'

Rom 7 became the key to understanding our experience of the cross's specific work in our christian life

1. Paul's scope of God's Law seems to go beyond limiting it to the Commandments as he includes many "laws" which simply describe the way things inevitably work by nature (the law of entropy) as man tries and fails to succeed in a fallen world
2. As we 'try' to do God's bidding (in ministry, godliness, or character) the downward law of gravity caused by 'Law of Sin' inevitably leads to the 'Law of Death' as life winds down in disappointment, bitterness, pride, exhaustion and condemnation
3. God redemptively uses these various laws upon christians who 'delight in laws' to expose our 'Sin of sins' = "I am's" self centeredness, pride and independence which 'thinks' it can obey and do righteous things 'with God's help' (but without God's life)
4. Though the 'old man' has been crucified from its center within, our old 'habit' of self-independent actions still exists in what Paul now calls "the flesh" = the conspiracy of our soul and body acting independently and against the spirit (inner man)
5. Flesh always fights against God's Spirit within trying to keep the believer separated from Christ even though only Christ can live the christian life

Reviewing Romans 7: The So-called 'Second Crisis'

Rom 7:24-25 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Rom 7.24-25 reveals the tremendous moment where an inner death and a resurrection simultaneously happen:

1. Paul comes to the end of himself (death) realizing the wretchedness of his "I AM" flesh life
2. At precisely the same moment he senses a peaceful transfer of power within as the Spirit unites us to Christ ("I-Thou"), where condemnation vanishes and the Spirit of Life resurrects

Reviewing Romans 7: The So-called 'Second Crisis'

Gal.2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

1. Seeing the wretchedness and self- condemnation of "I AM" apart from Christ with its resulting death must first come to us to convince us why the old man "I AM" had to be crucified (only God is sovereignly "I AM")
2. The "new man creation" is now "I- Thou" - "**Christ in me**" as my life is no longer alone but forever united by the Holy Spirit
3. Now the LAW's first commandment to have no other gods before me and the greatest commandment to love the Lord your God with ALL your heart..." is fulfilled because the god "SELF" has been dethroned
4. From now on the more we walk in this dependent relationship the more fruit we bear, "**yet not I but the grace of God with me**" **1Cor. 15.10**

Romans 8: Sanctified in Christ

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

As **Romans 8** opens we see a whole new landscape in contrast to the hopelessness of **Romans 7**

1. The first immediate result is a new sense he was no longer under **condemnation** after a long season losing the battle under the reign of Sin
2. **Romans 8.1** “**therefore**” refers back to the previous moment he realized by faith, “**Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord**” (7.25) after discovering the secret of a new freedom
3. Believers deal with two forms of condemnation:
 - a. Condemnation felt before before God because of sins until removed at salvation by His precious blood.
 - b. Self-condemnation over Sin and failure after “trying my best to be a christian” becomes a crippling walk and disqualifies us from God’s approval
4. At the same moment one comes to the end of “I AM” self the Spirit joins us back into our true New Man and in that union of “I-Thou” his grace overtakes our self-condemnation

Romans 8: Sanctified in Christ

Rom 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

A 5th New Law is discovered that overcomes the Law of Sin and Death

Romans 8.1-2 In Paul's defeat he realizes the resurrected Christ Jesus who was united with him in his death is now working within him by His resurrection

1. Paul reveals more about the Holy Spirit's work in **Rom 8** than anywhere else in the Word except **John 14-16**
2. The first immediate result was his deliverance from any **condemnation** over the battle between his flesh and his "new man"
 - a. The contrast of this chapter with **Rom 7** is dramatic - from striving to walking; from death to life; from tyranny to liberty; condemnation to overcoming
 - b. The cross has enabled the crossing of the Jordan into rest
3. The 2nd result was that Paul also realized that a new **Law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus was now able to set him free from the "**law of sin and death**"
 - a. **Spirit of Life** not only has 'uniting' power but also can lift the inner man with overcoming power over the flesh's deadly force
 - b. The issue now becomes a christian's choice of walking in flesh or Spirit

Romans 8: Sanctified in Christ

Rom 8:3-4 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The New Law enables us to fulfill the Law of God

Romans 8.3-4

1. the Law reveals God's holiness but could not help sanctify the believer because the flesh is hopelessly bound to the 'Law of Sin and death'
2. Notice Paul saying Christ died for us "**in the likeness of sinful flesh**" but not actual **sinful flesh** like the rest of fallen mankind in order to make himself a "sin offering" thus condemning all sin in the flesh
3. Now the requirement of the LAW can be fulfilled in us as we walk according to the Spirit (I-Thou) and not independently in the flesh (I am)
4. Although this sometimes seems like a brand new or 2nd experience the rivers of living waters have always been flowing within though dammed up by the independence of our self life
5. One real sign of the Fullness of the Holy Spirit is a life of godliness as the life of Christ is seen through you
6. Reminder: the Law of the Spirit only 'works' within the parameters of life 'in Christ Jesus'

Romans 8: Sanctified in Christ

Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8.5-9 New Man Walking

1. **Romans 8.5-6** Paul now shows the contrast between living according to the flesh and the Spirit
 - a. With our renewed minds we are **free** “to set our minds” either on things of the flesh or the Spirit
 - b. **Romans 8.6** Each has an inevitable result: Flesh-minded is death but Spirit-minded is life and peace
 - c. abiding in Christ the Spirit keeps us in zoé and shalom; when flesh lives independently as “I AM” life starts the downward road to death in the soul
2. **Romans 8.7-8** Paul explains the Reasons from both our side and God’s side
 - a. **Romans 8.7** When our mind is set on SELF it becomes rebellious and hostile toward God and does not submit to His Will
 - b. **Romans 8.8** The flesh has surrendered to the life of SELF and therefore cannot please God even if he thinks he can (like King Saul)
3. **Romans 8.9** “**But you...**” Paul emphasizes the “**you**” with glad hope they are “in the Spirit” as a dwelling of God as he reasons with believers in Rome:
 - a. yet not being there he asks them to sincerely test themselves about the Spirit’s indwelling Presence
 - b. In 8.9 Paul calls this essential Indweller both the “Spirit of God” and the “Spirit of Christ” to show the christian’s union in the oneness of the Godhead

Romans 8: Sanctified in Christ

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Romans 8.10-13 Paul shares the positive values of walking in the Spirit

1. **Romans 8.10** **if** Christ is in you (I-Thou), the Law of the Spirit working **from inside out** is able to overcome the body's bondage to sin and death
2. **Romans 8.11** **if** the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you it can quicken your mortal body overcoming the **Law of sin and death** and make it an instrument of righteousness
 - a. Paul has in mind first the new Law's power to overcome our flesh's previous bondage to Sin
 - b. But Paul also secondarily is referring to the Spirit's literal power to touch the physical body with strength and healing virtue
3. **Romans 8.12-13** Paul concludes by exhorting "**his brothers**" of the debt to God their Father to **live** according to the Spirit rather than **die** by the flesh
 - a. the Spirit has been given as a powerful agent for **life** and **transformation**
 - b. but we have a part: "**if you by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body**"
 - c. the practical progress of our sanctification involves **our** "mortifying" the deeds of the body **in union with** the Spirit of Life

Practical Living by the Law of the Spirit of Life

Rom 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For **the law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

The Law of the Spirit of Life is a natural law experienced when we surrender to its power

1. Our soul is strong and that creates problems as a christian
 - a. Our **will** power is strong so we keep trying to do right but the Law of Sin is stronger
 - b. Our **emotions** may be strong so we try to always to cry or express emotions about the Lord but we are forced by Sin to become hypocrites pretending we have such deep love
 - c. Our **mind** logically decides to do this or that even as soon as we understand the Law better so we try to study the Bible, read books but the more we learn the less we are able to accomplish
2. The Law of life in Christ Jesus is a 'natural law' that lives without trying:
 - a. the will may decide to pray often but the Law of life in spirit has a natural desire to pray
 - b. the mind knows it read the Bible but the Law of life within has a natural hunger for the Bible
 - c. the emotions try to love the unlovely people but the Law of the Spirit loves them sincerely
3. "Jesus said, "**Behold the birds... Consider the lilies**". If we could ask the birds whether they were not afraid of the law of gravity, how would they reply? They would say: 'We never heard the name of Newton. We know nothing about his law. We fly because it is the law of our life to fly.' W.Nee

Practical Living by the Law of the Spirit of Life

Watchman Nee on 'Walking according to the Spirit

The Lord externally brought us into the new law of life by the Spirit by the cross. But still “the ordinance of the law” remained to be fulfilled “in us”. How could this be done? It required God’s further provision of the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is He who is sent to take care of the inward side of this thing, and He is able to do so, we are told, as we “walk... after the Spirit”. What does it mean to walk after the Spirit? It means two things.

Firstly, it is not a work; it is a walk. Praise God, the burdensome and fruitless effort I involved myself in when I sought ‘in the flesh’ to please God gives place to a blessed and restful dependence on “his working, which worketh in me mightily” (Col. 1:29). That is why Paul contrasts the “works” of the flesh with the “fruit” of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19, 22).

Then secondly, to “walk after” implies subjection. Walking after the flesh means that I yield to the dictates of the flesh, and the following verses in Romans 8:5-8 make clear where that leads me. It only brings me into conflict with God. To walk after the Spirit is to be subject to the Spirit. There is one thing that the man who walks after the Spirit cannot do, and that is be independent of Him. I *must* be subject to the Holy Spirit. The initiative of my life must be with Him. Only as I yield myself to obey Him shall I find the “law of the Spirit of life” in full operation and the “ordinance of the law” (all that I have been trying to do to please God) being fulfilled—no longer *by* me but *in* me. “As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (Rom. 8:14).

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- next time: Rom 8
- 3. Rom 8.14-28 the new Way: the Holy Spirit “comes alongside” as we pass through the our transforming tribulation