

01-11-15

Series: The Anatomy of a Church

The Anatomy of a Church (44)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 01/04/15)

The Spirit Frees Us from Sin and Death and Enables Us to Fulfill the Law ([Romans 8:1-4](#))

[Romans 8:1-4 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

³ 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,

⁴ 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 Reality of Freedom—No Condemnation

[Romans 8:1a \(NASB\)](#)

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Through the apostle John, God assures His children that “if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world” ([1 John 2:1-2](#)).

[1 John 2:1-2 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

² and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world.

Jesus not only pays the believer’s debt of sin but cleanses him “from all unrighteousness” ([1 John 1:9](#)).

[1 John 1:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

01-11-15

Series: The Anatomy of a Church

Still more amazingly, He graciously **imputes** and **imparts** to each believer His own perfect righteousness: “**For by one offering He [Christ] has perfected for all time those who are sanctified**” ([Hebrews 10:14](#); cf. [Romans 5:17](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Philippians 3:9](#)).

[Hebrews 10:14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁴ For by one offering He [Christ] has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

[Romans 5:17 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁷ For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

[2 Corinthians 5:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

[Philippians 3:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

More even than that, Jesus shares His vast heavenly inheritance with those who come to Him in faith ([Ephesians 1:3, 11, 14](#)).

[Ephesians 1:3 \(NASB\)](#)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, [Ephesians 1:11 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

[Ephesians 1:14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

It is because of such immeasurable divine grace that Paul admonishes Christians to be continually “**giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light**” ([Colossians 1:12](#)).

[Colossians 1:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Having been qualified by God the Father, we will never; under any circumstance, be subject to divine **condemnation** [*katakrima*]. How blessed to be placed beyond the reach of **condemnation** [*katakrima*]! The truth that there can never be the eternal death penalty for believers is the foundation of the **eighth chapter of Romans**. As Paul asks rhetorically near the end of the chapter, “**If God is for us, who is against us?**” ([v. 31](#)), and again, “**who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies**” ([v. 33](#)).

01-11-15

Series: The Anatomy of a Church

Romans 8:31 (NASB)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

Romans 8:33 (NASB)

³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

If the highest tribunal in the universe justifies us, who can declare us guilty?

It is extremely important to realize that deliverance from **condemnation** [*katakrima*] is not based in the least measure on any form of perfection achieved by the believer. He does not attain the total eradication of sin during his earthly life. It is that truth that Paul establishes so intensely and poignantly in **Romans 7**.

John declares that truth as unambiguously as possible in his first epistle: **“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8)**. The Christian's conflict with sin does not end until he goes to be with the Lord. Nevertheless, there is still no **condemnation** [*katakrima*] —because the penalty for all the failures of his life has been paid in Christ and applied by grace.

It is also important to realize that deliverance from divine **condemnation** [*katakrima*] does not mean deliverance from divine discipline.

“For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives” (Hebrews 12:6).

Nor does deliverance from God's **condemnation** [*katakrima*] mean escape from our accountability to Him:

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).