

“NO CONDEMNATION”

- 1) **GOD KNOWS, UNDERSTANDS & YET LOVES AND FORGIVES US** Psalm 103:8-14
 - a) The Lord's character – compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love :8
 - b) His character revealed:
 - c) Not accusing, anger short-lived, mercy (not receiving what we deserve) :9-10
 - d) Immeasurable love, forgiveness & compassion :11-13
 - e) Understanding of who we are and the struggles we go through (see Hebrews 4:15) (:14)

- 2) **YET WE STILL LIVE WITH FEELINGS OF GUILT & CONDEMNATION** Romans 7:24
 - a) Satan is continually active trying to devour us 1 Peter 5:8
 - i) His purpose is to deceive and destroy John 8:44; 10:10a
 - b) He continually accuses us – before God as well as in our own heart Rev. 12:10; Job 1:9-11
 - i) Our own conscience often condemns us 1 Jn. 3:19-20; Heb. 10:22

- 3) **BUT, FOR THOSE IN CHRIST, THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION** Romans 8:1
 - a) God is for us – how can anyone or anything get in His way or between us? Romans 8:31-39
 - i) He gives us all good things – including Christ! :32
 - ii) God is the only one who can charge us with anything (i.e., accuse us), yet He chooses to justify (accept) us! :33
 - iii) God is the only one who has the right to condemn us – yet instead He actively intervened by sending Christ to die for us (Christ now stands before God on our behalf)! :34
 - iv) Nothing natural or supernatural can separate our Heavenly Father from His children! (cf. John 10:27-29) :35-39

- 4) **IT IS AN ALREADY DONE DEAL! THERE IS NOTHING YOU NOR ANYONE ELSE CAN OR NEED TO DO TO BE FORGIVEN & ACCEPTED**
 - a) Christ's death on the Cross did it all for us! Hebrews 9
 - i) The OT system of priests and sacrifices was inadequate in itself to save us and cleanse our consciences :9-10
 - ii) Christ's sacrifice was effective once for all – it need never be repeated and can't be added to or subtracted from :25-26
 - (1) For our eternal redemption :12
 - (2) To cleanse our consciences (being internally clean allows us the freedom to serve God!) :13-14; 10:22

- (3) To place us under a new covenant :15
- (4) To forgive our sins :15b, 22, 26, 28a

iii) His one sacrifice made us holy and perfect forever; therefore, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin needed or accepted Heb. 10:10,14,18; Romans 5:18-19

5) ASK AND YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN THE GUILT OF YOUR SIN

- a) Our confession triggers God's faithfulness and His justice (which was satisfied at the Cross – Rom 3:26) and results in our forgiveness and internal cleansing
1 John 1:9
 - i) God looks at the heart – and sincerity and humility are at the top of His want list
Ps. 51:17; Matt. 5:3
 - ii) We are blessed (happy and free in conscience) when our sins are finally confronted and confessed
Ps. 32:1-2, 5
- b) Unfortunately, because of our own sense of guilt and shame, mingled with a goodly dose of satanic accusation, we often cling to our sin and allow it to be used as a weapon against us
 - i) Not owning up to our sin and sinfulness only leads to:
 - (1) Deception as well as keeping us from God and His forgiveness
1 John 1:8, 10)
 - (2) Shame, hiding from God, blaming others and God, a sense of self-pity (“I am a victim; it's your fault!”), discipline, loss of privileges
Gen. 3:7-24
 - (3) Internal pain and struggle
Ps. 32:3-4

6) HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE? WITH CONFIDENCE, NOT FEAR!

- a) Because of Christ's sacrifice, we are justified = accepted! 1 Cor. 1:2, 30; 6:11
- b) The spirit of fear within us has been replaced by:
 - i) A Spirit of Sonship – we can call God “Daddy” Rom. 8:15-16
 - ii) A Spirit of love, power and self-control 2 Tim. 1:7
 - iii) Perfect love 1 John 4:18
- c) Not only can we live our lives with confidence, but we are able to relate confidently and with assurance to God! Eph. 3:12
 - i) Approach our gracious Lord with confidence (and, instead of condemnation, we find mercy and grace and help) Heb. 4:16
 - ii) Confidence before God means living without internal condemnation; we can now obey and please Him and receive His blessings 1 John 3:21-22
 - iii) Because of who Christ is (Great Priest) and what He has done (opened the way to God), we can confidently draw near to God:
 - (1) With hearts free to desire (and not fear) God
 - (2) Expecting God to receive and accept us
 - (3) Without a guilty conscience
 - (4) Without any doubt that God will faithfully fulfill His promises Heb. 10:19-23