

The Way Forward: Life Through the Spirit - Romans 8:1–4 – Sept. 27th

Purpose

To understand what it means to live in the freedom Christ has already secured for us: **no condemnation, freedom from sin's domination, and new life through the Holy Spirit.** Romans 8 invites us to stop living out of shame, failure, and self-effort and begin living from our new identity in Christ.

Icebreaker

The sermon began with the story of an eagle raised among prairie chickens. What is something you once believed about yourself that later proved not to be true?

Scripture

Read **Romans 8:1–4** together.

Additional passages: Romans 6:3–11; Romans 7:21–25; John 15:1–5; Galatians 5:16–25.

Observations

1. In Christ, there is no condemnation.

Paul does not say there is *less* condemnation. He says there is **none**. Condemnation tells us to hide from God; conviction leads us back toward the Father, where we find mercy and transformation. God condemned sin in Christ so those who are in Christ no longer live under its sentence.

2. The Spirit awakens us to who we already are in Christ.

Our deepest battle is not simply trying harder to resist sin, but believing what God says is already true of us. We are united with Christ, indwelt by the Spirit, and no longer defined by our old life. The Spirit continually draws us back to that reality—helping us live from our true identity, remain aware of our union with God, and increasingly become who we already are in Christ.

3. God did what we could never do for ourselves.

The law could reveal righteousness and expose sin, but it could not create new life. God sent His Son, and through Christ's death and resurrection opened the way for the righteousness of Jesus to increasingly be expressed in us through the Spirit.

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Core Teaching

Life in the Spirit is not primarily about trying harder to become a better Christian. It is about **living from union with Jesus**:

- Being before doing
- Union before activity
- Receiving before producing

Like a branch remaining in the vine, we receive the life of Christ and allow His Spirit to form His character in us.

Discussion Questions

1. Where are you most tempted to live under condemnation rather than conviction?
2. What is the difference between saying, “This is just who I am,” and saying, “I belong to Jesus, and His Spirit is at work in me”?
3. What sin, fear, attitude, or pattern have you begun to assume will never change?
4. How does “being before doing” challenge the way you normally approach Christian life or ministry?
5. Where might you be trying harder when Jesus is inviting you to abide more deeply?
6. What would it look like for CBC to move forward as a people increasingly surrendered to and alive in the Spirit?

Digging Deeper

Spend time this week slowly reading **Romans 8:1–17**. Notice every statement about what God has done, who you are in Christ, and what the Spirit now makes possible.

Prayer

Father, thank You that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Teach us to live from our identity as Your beloved children. Praise you that we are free from the domination of sin and from striving in our own strength. Help us remain in Jesus and walk each day in the freedom, holiness, joy, and life of Your Spirit. Amen.