

The Holy Spirit: A New Way

(Romans 8)

- Introduction:
1. Covering Romans 8 in one sermon is quite a challenge when one considers that nearly every verse contains a sermon within itself, and there are 39 verses in the chapter.
 2. Therefore, it goes without saying that “a lot of meat will be left on the bone” at the end of this lesson.
 3. However, in this lesson, I want to present four over-arching themes in Romans 8 that are full of comfort and encouragement.

I. The Spirit's Way Brings Freedom from Condemnation

- A. (Romans 8:1-11).
- B. Note that the chapter begins with the word, “therefore,” thus tying it to the discussion of chapter 7.
 1. Three laws were discussed – the law of sin and death, the law of Moses, and the law of the Spirit of life.
 2. The law of Moses was unable to free us from the law of sin and death, but the law of the Spirit of life in Christ can free us from the law of sin and death.
- C. What is the law of the Spirit of life? – It's one of several descriptions of the same thing.
 1. The New Covenant (Hebrews 8:7).
 2. The New Testament (Hebrews 9:17).
 3. The Law of Liberty (James 1:25).
 4. The Law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).
- D. This truth gives us security “now” (Romans 8:1).
 1. (Hebrews 2:15).
 2. (2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-8).
 3. (1 John 5:13).
- E. When we walk according to the Spirit (Romans 8:1), live according to the Spirit (Romans 8:4), and are indwelt by the Spirit (Romans 8:9-11), we can have confidence we are his, and are not under condemnation.

II. The Spirit's Way Brings Freedom to Become Sons of God

- A. (Romans 8:12-17).
- B. While living “in the flesh,” we were separated from God, and were destined to die (Romans 8:13).
- C. But if we are led by the Spirit of God, we are adopted and we can cry out to God as our Father (Romans 8:15)!
 1. Note that we are not just God's creation, servants, or even friends.
 2. We are his children (Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:1).
- D. How can we know we are the children of God?

1. The Spirit bears witness “with” our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:17).
 2. Note that the Spirit bears witness “with” our spirit, not “to” our spirit.
- E. And because we are children of God, we are also his heirs (Romans 8:17)!

III. The Spirit’s Way Brings Freedom from Suffering

- A. (Romans 8:18-30).
- B. We live in a fallen world and long for relief from our suffering.
- C. The entire creation is pictured as “groaning” in our fallen state (Romans 8:19-22).
- D. But the day is coming when our mortal bodies will be redeemed (Romans 8:23) when our mortal bodies will be changed to immortal bodies (1 Corinthians 15:50-58).
- E. Meanwhile, until that day comes for which we eagerly await (Romans 8:25), we are aided in our suffering by the Spirit’s intercession on our behalf (Romans 8:26) and God’s providence (Romans 8:28).
 1. (Esther 4:14).
 2. (Genesis 50:19-20).
 3. (Exodus 34:24).

IV. The Spirit’s Way Brings Freedom from Fear

- A. (Romans 8:31-39).
- B. If God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31).
- C. If God would go so far as to give his own Son for us, what would he not give to us that we need?
- D. Because of God’s great love for us, we are “more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).
 1. Note the imagery, we are compared to sheep (Romans 8:36).
 2. Yet we are said to be more than conquerors.
 3. What better way to demonstrate that our salvation is not by our own might but by the work of God (Judges 7:2,7).
- E. We have nothing to fear in this life.
 1. We may not know what’s next, but we know what’s last.
 2. Our future is certain if we walk according to the Spirit of life.

- Conclusion:
1. God is so good to us, far better than we deserve.
 2. Because of his goodness, and in spite of our frailties, we can endure this life with God’s help and receive his inheritance, laid up for us in heaven, in the next life.
 3. When one contrasts the way of the Spirit with the way of the flesh, why would anyone not choose the way of the Spirit?
 4. Not only is walking after the Spirit the best way to live now, it offers the best for us in eternity.