

**Romans**  
**The Question(s) of Freedom- Week #4**  
**Small Group Notes**  
**March 5 and 8**

**Main Point:** The Spirit guides the life of Christians and enables us to live in ways that honor God.

**Introduction:**

**When we were kids, who would you say had influence over our life? Who were some of our role models? Are they still role models for us today?**

**Who or what influences us the most today?**

We learned at the end of chapter 7, Jesus Christ is an ever-present help for overcoming sin. We learned last week how that impacts how we worry versus how we worship (John 4). Just as our parents or those in authority over us, influenced or guided our lives when we were younger, the Holy Spirit guides us as Christians to seek and live out God's will.

**Discuss:**

1. Read Romans 8:1-4

**Explain:** Paul began chapter 8 by talking about Jesus Christ, God the Son. He focused on the work of Christ, because of whom there is no more condemnation. Then in verse 3, Paul expanded to talk about God the Father as well. He spoke about how the Father had set up the law, but it could not do what was needed, so the Father sent the Son as a human to fulfill the righteous requirement of the law.

**Sermon Notes:**

The Question(s) of Freedom:

- Would God punish Christ and me for the same sin?
- Does God really only love me when I am like Christ?
- How can I really know that I am forgiven?

**What is an appropriate punishment when a child disobeys a parent? What is an appropriate punishment when a driver disobeys the speed limit? A citizen disobeys a federal law?**

**Imagine you were in a situation where you rightly deserved a harsh punishment, but it was pardoned. How would you feel?**

**How would you define “condemnation”? What is the appropriate condemnation for sin (Read Romans 6:23)?**

**Read Romans 8:1 again. When we read and hear these words, what is your first reaction? Why is there no condemnation for people in Christ Jesus?**

2. Read Romans 8:5-9

**Explain:** The Holy Spirit is the guide for our spiritual lives. The Spirit dwells in us, meaning that He is an internal source of encouragement, discernment, and revelation. God, who is perfectly holy, wants to have us in fellowship with Him. Because He is holy, however, He cannot abide with any degree of sin. That which is in fellowship with Him must be perfectly holy. He expects us to live holy lives, and this can only happen through life in the Spirit.

**Sermon Notes:**

- What is the greatest damage caused by sin?
- What is the greatest irony of life?

**What are the differences in these verses of someone that lives according to the Spirit and someone who lives according to the flesh?**

**How would you describe the role of the Holy Spirit? What does it feel and look like in our lives to have the presence of the Holy Spirit?**

**In your own words, what do you think the Holy Spirit wants to do inside of us? (Read John 15:1-5) What does it want to change, grow, and produce?**

**Why is knowing the constant presence of God’s Spirit a powerful deterrent to giving in to the temptations or fighting battles that come in our lives? Share an example of how God’s abiding presence helped you in a battle.**

3. Read Romans 8:10-15

**Explain:** We have been fundamentally changed and are different people. Our identity and substance is now different. Though the power of sin is still present, the Holy Spirit frees the believer from being controlled by what this appetite desires. Through the Holy Spirit’s work in believers’ lives, sin’s power has been broken. The Spirit also leads us to live in a manner that honors God.

**From what you read, how does our relationship with God give us confidence as we live our lives?**

**Read Galatians 5:13-18. What instructions does Paul give us here that helps us in understanding the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives as described in Romans 8?**

**Do:**

Discuss as a group, how can we use Romans 8:1 to share the Good News about freedom and forgiveness in Christ with others? Who is someone in your life that needs to hear this message currently?

Review the questions of freedom, which of these do we often struggle with? What is something we have learned from this discussion that can help us to find answers in our relationship with Christ?