

Romans 8

Life in Christ living by the Spirit

- [Assertion] Therefore, there is now no condemnation [the situation just described] for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the **Spirit** of life set me free from the law of sin and death.
- [Explain] 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature [flesh], God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man [flesh] to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in [the flesh] sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature [flesh] but according to the **Spirit**. (answers the Q in 3:31)
- [Explain] 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature [flesh] have their minds set on what that nature [the flesh] desires; but those who live in accordance with the **Spirit** have their minds set on what the **Spirit** desires. 6 The mind of sinful man [flesh] is death, but the mind controlled by the **Spirit** is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind [fleshly mind] is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those **controlled by the sinful nature [flesh]** cannot please God. (Control = slavery to sin)
- [Application] 9 You, however, **are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit**, if the **Spirit** of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the **Spirit** of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your **spirit** is alive because of righteousness. 11 And if the **Spirit** of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his **Spirit**, who lives in you. (control = slavery to righteousness)
- [Conclusion] 12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation (answers the questions, shall we go on sinning?)
- [Conclusion] —but it is not to the [flesh] sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the [flesh] sinful nature, you will die; **but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body**, you will live, 14 because those who are led by the **Spirit** of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a **spirit** that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the **Spirit** of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The **Spirit** himself testifies with our **spirit** that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Discussion

- No longer a slave, but now a son
- The law enumerates sin, increasing its prevalence. It also arouses sinful desires. The problem is not with the Law / law, but with the flesh. This “guiding” / “defining” purpose of the Law is replaced by the **Spirit**.....new found power to live holy lives.