

Romans 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Analysis

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus (οὐδὲν κατάκριμα, ouden katakrima)—The "therefore" (ara) links back to chapter 7's struggle with sin and forward to the Spirit's triumph. Katakrima denotes judicial condemnation, the death sentence sin deserves. For those **in Christ Jesus** (en Christō Iēsou)—Paul's favorite phrase (164 times)—this verdict is eternally reversed. The phrase en Christō indicates vital union, not mere proximity: believers are forensically identified with Christ's death and resurrection (6:3-11).

The condition **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit** is not a requirement for justification but the inevitable evidence of it. The present participle peripatousin ("walking") describes the habitual pattern of life that flows from regeneration. This verse forms the thesis of Romans 8: those justified by faith (5:1) are freed from sin's condemnation (8:1), sin's dominion (6:14), and the law's curse (7:6), now empowered by the Spirit for sanctification.

Historical Context

Paul wrote Romans around AD 57 from Corinth to a church he had not yet visited. Chapter 8 represents the climax of his systematic presentation of the gospel (1:16-17), moving from justification (3:21-5:21) through sanctification (6:1-8:17) to glorification (8:18-39). The Jewish-Gentile tensions in Rome made clear teaching on law, grace, and the Spirit's work essential.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does "no condemnation" in verse 1 relate to the "wretched man" struggle of 7:24? What changed between these verses?
2. What does it mean to be "in Christ Jesus" beyond intellectual assent to doctrine?
3. How does the Spirit's indwelling transform daily "walking" from legal obligation to Spirit-enabled delight?

Interlinear Text

Οὐδὲν	ἄρα	νῦν	κατάκριμα	τοῖς	ἐν
no	There is therefore	now	condemnation	G3588	to them which are in
G3762	G686	G3568	G2631		G1722

Χριστῷ	Ἰησοῦ·	μὴ	κατὰ	σάρκα	περιπατοῦσιν,	ἀλλὰ
Christ	Jesus	not	after	the flesh	who walk	but
G5547	G2424	G3361	G2596	G4561	G4043	G235

κατὰ	πνεῦμα
after	the Spirit
G2596	G4151

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 5:17 (References Christ): Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Galatians 3:13 (References Christ): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Romans 5:1 (References Jesus): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 1:30 (References Jesus): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Romans 8:34 (References Christ): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

John 5:24 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 15:4 (Parallel theme): Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Philippians 3:9 (References Christ): And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Isaiah 54:17 (Parallel theme): No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Romans 8:14 (Spirit): For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.