

Romans 8 "Step by Step"

Step by Step is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live with purpose and identity.

Thoughts and considerations

Romans 8 is where we are to live so to speak. Realizing that we are justified by faith in Jesus and that He has set us free from the power of sin. We are now invited to grow in this new life, the Life in the Spirit.

V1- In light of what has been revealed in the previous 7 chapters we are now instructed on practical living. First and, foremost, we are *in Christ Jesus*. This is the relational position we now have; we are His and He is ours! Consider the following comments from Matthew Poole (1624-1629) in regards to being *in Christ*; "This phrase imports, that there is a mystical and spiritual union betwixt Christ and believers. This is sometimes expressed by Christ being in them... and here by their being in Christ. Christ is in believers by His Spirit, and believers are in Christ by faith."

Because we are '*in Christ*' there is *no condemnation*! Condemnation declares one to be unfit, banished, pushed back or sent away. We are not condemned by God when we are in Christ! An interesting contrast to 'condemnation' is conviction. When we are 'convicted' by the Holy Spirit concerning wrong thoughts or wrong actions we are drawn nearer to God for help, correction and comfort.

V2- The Spirit brings life, our efforts or 'works' of the flesh brought death. Notice this is in the past tense meaning that the victory resulting in new life has already been accomplished.

V3- Jesus came '*in the likeness of sinful flesh*' without a sin nature. This was accomplished in part by being conceived not by a human father but miraculously by the Holy Spirit in Mary.

We are told in Hebrews 4:15 that Jesus was tempted as we are, yet He was without sin. Because He endured the human experience and did not sin He was able to pay our debt of sin which is death.

V4- Jesus did not come to remove the Law, rather He came to fulfill it. Because we are *in Christ*, we also have the law requirement fulfilled in us.

One result of this new life in the Spirit is that we now have the power and ability to live a new lifestyle, *according to the Spirit*.

V5,6- "The two main parts of man's nature are flesh and spirit. He also possesses a consciousness, his mind, which is controlled by either his body or his spirit. If he walks after the flesh, his mind is controlled by the flesh; if he walks after the Spirit, it's controlled by the Spirit." (Chuck Smith)

V7- *enmity*=hostile, hateful. So we see a battle; the fleshly/carnal body we live in is hateful, hostile toward God and will continue that way until we depart this body. (2Corinthians 5:1-7)

V8- Living(lusting) for body appetites is displeasing to God.

V9- Remember who you are! Since you are born again, live the New Life, not the old life.

V10,11- *If* conveys more of a declaration than a question. It could be translated; *Since Christ is in you*. The power of sin has been unplugged and you are now indwelt by the Spirit.

V12,13- We are no longer 'obligated' to the fleshly demands. We are now 'indebted', which speaks of gratitude and thankfulness, to this new life in the Spirit.

V14- You have the Holy Spirit, is He leading you?

V15- "No longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God."

Abba- A term of endearment akin to saying; "Daddy or Papa".

V16- God, the Holy Spirit, indwells us and teaches us. *"These things I have spoken to you while present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."* Jesus (John 14:25,26)

V17- Consider Hebrews 11 and the list of people who chose to suffer at the hands of this world because they had a greater hope in God and the life to come.

*"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of,
²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt..."* Hebrews 11:24-26
