



Today, we’re beginning a new series in Romans 8 called “The Greatest Chapter in the Bible.” Whenever you come to faith in Christ – everything changes. Most of those changes are joyful, but others can be challenging. Truth is, even after we’ve been a Christ follower for a long time, we’re still constantly adjusting our lives as we grow in Christ. Romans 8 is all about that shift – living out our new identity in Christ.

Key Passage: Romans 8:1

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Romans 8:1 mean when it says, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”?

This means believers are no longer under God’s judgment or penalty for sin because of their faith in Jesus. This is a complete spiritual transformation that frees us from guilt and shame.

2. What is the significance of the word “therefore” in Romans 8:1? What does it connect to in the previous chapters of Romans?

The word "therefore" connects Romans 8:1 to the message of Romans 1–7. Paul summarizes that all are sinners, salvation comes through faith in Christ, and believers are free from the power of sin. Romans 8 begins a declaration of this new reality in Christ.

3. What was one personal “then and now” moment in your life where you saw a clear change in identity?

(Personal answers will vary.) For example, someone might share how coming to faith in Christ redefined their purpose.

4. Why is it important for believers to embrace the “now” of their new identity in Christ rather than living in the “then” of their past?

Living in the “then” can hinder spiritual growth and keep believers trapped in guilt, shame, or sinful habits. Embracing the “now” allows them to walk in the freedom, purpose, and victory Jesus provides.

5. What are some ways guilt or shame over past sins can prevent you from living in the freedom of “no condemnation” in Christ? How can you overcome this?

Guilt and shame can lead to feelings of unworthiness and distance from God. Overcoming this involves trusting God's forgiveness, confessing sin, and embracing His promises of grace and freedom.

6. Paul contrasts "then" (life dominated by sin) and "now" (life in Christ). What are some areas of your life where you still wrestle with living in the "then"? How can Romans 8:1 encourage you?

(Personal answers will vary.) For example, someone might struggle with anger or anxiety and find encouragement in the promise that sin no longer has the final word.

7. How does the example of marriage illustrate the difference between living in the "then" versus the "now"?

Just as living like a single person would hinder a marriage, living like we're still under condemnation hinders our relationship with Christ. Embracing the "now" affirms our new reality as loved, redeemed believers.

8. What practical steps can you take to remind yourself daily of your "now" identity in Christ?

Practical steps include spending time in God's Word, prayer, meditating on verses like Romans 8:1, and surrounding yourself with Christian community for accountability and encouragement.

9. How can the truth of "no condemnation" help you when you face moments of sin or seasons of struggle?

It reminds you that God's grace is greater than your sin. Rather than staying in guilt, you can repent, receive forgiveness, and continue growing in Christ.

10. What does being "in Christ Jesus" mean, and how does this status impact every aspect of your life?

Being "in Christ Jesus" means belonging to Him through faith and being part of God's family. This impacts your purpose, decisions, relationships, and eternal future as you live with the assurance of God's love and acceptance.