



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: Romans 8:1-17

KEY POINT: It's only Christ who can deliver us from our bondage to sin.

FOR LEADERS

- **Outside Services!:** We're back outside at our Totowa campus! Come bring a chair and join us these next 5 weeks! If you'd like to be a part of the team helping to make this possible, text the word "outside" to 94000 !
- **Feedback:** Walking in discipleship together this past year during Pandemic has been CHALLENGING (to say the least)! Even so, the challenging seasons we've faced have opened new doors of opportunity for us together as a church. As we prayerfully consider what it means for discipleship to consider to flourish at Emergence, we would very much like to hear from our faithful leaders! When you have a moment, please head to www.emergencenj.org/feedback to let us know what your experience has been and to help provide insight as we plan for what's to come!

GETTING STARTED

[1] Communities Video: Watch this week's community extras video!

[2] Icebreaker:

[3] Opener: What were some of your biggest takeaways from the sermon this week?

FREEDOM, NOT CONDEMNATION

Ask for someone to read Romans 8:1-4.

- [1]** In Paul's words, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." What effects does this liberating knowledge have in our lives?
- [2]** What does it mean to be enslaved to "the law of sin and death," and what does it mean to be freed from it?
- [3]** In verse 3, what is the thing that the law is unable to do, and why is it unable to do it?
- [4]** What does Paul say in these verses to dispel the notion that Christians, having been freed from the law, are under no obligation to keep God's law?
- [5]** In the sermon, Ryan said that those who are in Christ should never think of suffering in this life as punishment for sin. What are other, healthier ways to think of our suffering that are more in line with what these verses teach us?

THE MIND SET ON THE SPIRIT

Ask for someone to read Romans 8:5-8.

- [6]** What does it mean to set one's mind on the things of the flesh? Which do you personally find most challenging in this regard?
- [7]** What does it mean to set one's mind on the things of the Spirit? What does this look like in your own life?



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- [8]** Verse 7 says that the mind set on the flesh *cannot* submit to God’s law, and verse 8 likewise says that those who are in the flesh *cannot* please him. How does this square with the observation that many people who do not know Jesus do lots of good things? How does this affect what it means to be “in the flesh”?
- [9]** What opportunities do you have to show the unbelieving world the fruit of your life in the Spirit?

HE WHO GIVES LIFE

Ask for someone to read Romans 8:9-11.

- [10]** How do these verses contribute to our understanding of the Trinity?
- [11]** According to this passage, what are the various effects that we experience as a result of God’s Spirit dwelling in us?

HE WHO GIVES LOVE

Ask for someone to read Romans 8:12-17.

- [12]** According to this passage, what does the Holy Spirit do to us that enables us to put to death the “deeds of the body”?
- [13]** In the sermon, Ryan used the analogy of a lion to explain the difference between attempting to “tame” our sin and “killing it.” What “deeds of the body” are you being challenged to put to death, what does taming it look like, and what does killing it look like?
- [14]** How would you use this passage to respond to someone who claims that the gospel of God’s free grace through faith in Christ gives us license to sin and to live immoral lives?
- [15]** What does this passage have to say about the role that emotion should play in the Christian life?
- [16]** Why does Paul, in verse 17, portray suffering as a necessary ingredient in the Christian life?

PRAYER

- [1]** Ask that God would continue to show you what it means to live in the power of the Spirit.
- [2]** Pray specifically for the things that you are convicted to put to death in your life.



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LEADER'S COMMENTARY

[Romans 8:1] “The law of the Spirit of life” carries over the language of the last verse of chapter 7, which contrasts the “law of God” with the “law of sin.” The “Spirit of life” here in verse 1 is almost certainly the Holy Spirit, since he is clearly the “Spirit” referred to later on in verses 4 and 5, and throughout this chapter.

[Romans 8:4] In verse 4, when Paul says that in Jesus God “condemned sin in the flesh,” he means that God judged our sin in Jesus’ flesh on the cross. By saying that “the righteous requirement of the law [is] fulfilled in us,” he probably is not referring to our own ethical conduct, but to Christ’s fulfillment of the law for us. This is suggested both by the passive voice (“might be fulfilled in us”), as well as the fact that even Spirit-led Christian obedience still falls short of the “righteous requirement” of God’s law. The law’s demands are fulfilled in us because of our incorporation into Christ, not because of our own ability to live up to God’s standards.