ROMANS 8

No Condemnation, No Separation

life in the Spirit, from the verdict of verse 1 to the love of verse 39

> *“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*
> ROMANS 8:1

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where Paul has brought us

1. Romans 7 ended with a cry and a thanksgiving: “Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

2. If chapter 7 is the chapter of the law (the word appears more than twenty times there), chapter 8 is the chapter of the Spirit.

3. Paul’s Old Testament roots run deep.

No Condemnation

The verdict reversed — God did what the Law could not do

ROMANS 8:3

For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

DAVID GUZIK

Acquit the head, acquit the hand; the Law fulfilled in us, not by us.

R.C. SPROUL

No carnal Christians; what the Law cannot do, God does; imputation is nonnegotiable.

C.H. SPURGEON

Outside Christ, present condemnation; sighing for holiness proves you are in Him.

MATTHEW HENRY

Chastened of the Lord but not condemned with the world.

κατάκριμα

KATAKRIMA · "CONDEMNATION"

Not merely "blame" but the sentence that follows a verdict — the penalty passed and carried out.

Two Minds, Two Ends

Flesh and Spirit — what each minds, where each leads, and what we owe

ROMANS 8:6

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

DAVID GUZIK

The mind is the battleground; every believer has the Spirit; four tests.

R.C. SPROUL

Moral inability, then his favorite word — "but" — the Spirit indwells all He regenerates.

C.H. SPURGEON

The carnal mind is a solid block of aversion; only God's love melts it.

MATTHEW HENRY

The mind is the forge of thoughts; not an enemy but enmity itself.

φρόνημα
PHRONĒMA · "MIND SET"

Not the intellect alone but the whole bent of a life — what a man thinks about, wants and aims at.

Two minds, two ends

ROMANS 8:4–13	THE MIND SET ON THE FLESH	THE MIND SET ON THE SPIRIT
WHAT IT MINDS	**the things of the flesh** (v5)	**the things of the Spirit** (v5)
WHERE IT ENDS	**death** (v6; “you must die,” v13)	**life and peace** (v6; “you will live,” v13)
TOWARD GOD	**hostile toward God;** cannot please God (vv7–8)	**the Spirit of God dwells in you;** you belong to Christ (v9)
GOD’S LAW	**does not subject itself —** is not even able to (v7)	**its requirement fulfilled** in us (v4)
THE BODY	**its deeds rule: living** according to the flesh (v13)	**its deeds put to death;** life to mortal bodies (vv11, 13)

Read across each row: Paul sets the mind of the flesh and the mind of the Spirit side by side on what they think about, where they end, how they stand toward God, His law, and the body.

Sons, Not Slaves

The Spirit of adoption — "Abba! Father!" — and an inheritance shared with Christ

ROMANS 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

DAVID GUZIK

Sons first, then led; God's children know who they are.

R.C. SPROUL

Led into holiness, not hunches; a child of the one you obey; never against the Word.

C.H. SPURGEON

Spirit-given bondage breaks self-righteousness; Abba is for freeborn children only.

MATTHEW HENRY

Heirs under age — not yet in possession, certain of the estate.

υἱοθεσία

HUIOTHESIA · "ADOPTION AS SONS"

Literally "son-placing" (huios, son + thesis, a placing).

Groaning Toward Glory

Creation groans, we groan, the Spirit groans — and all three wait in hope

ROMANS 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

DAVID GUZIK

Birth pangs, not death pangs; the Spirit's help is not proof of superiority.

R.C. SPROUL

Evil is from sin, futility by decree; hope means a certain future; prayer is Trinitarian.

C.H. SPURGEON

Firstfruits make us groan for more; redeemed by price, not yet by power.

MATTHEW HENRY

Suffering weighed and found light; grace is glory begun.

ἀποκαραδοκία

APOKARADOKIA · "ANXIOUS LONGING"

Built from apo (away), kara (head) and dokeō (to watch): watching with the head stretched forward — the craned neck of someone straining to see what is coming round the bend.

The three groans



Creation, the church and the Spirit all groan in Romans 8 — and all three groans lean forward toward the same revealed glory.

The Golden Chain

All things work together — from foreknowledge to glory, God does every verb

ROMANS 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

DAVID GUZIK

God works all things, not some; the goal is likeness to Jesus.

R.C. SPROUL

Not foreseen faith but fore-love; effectual call; saved now, saved forever.

C.H. SPURGEON

Ask “Am I called?” — the visible link of the ferry chain.

MATTHEW HENRY

A golden chain which cannot be broken; holiness is conformity to Christ.

συνεργεῖ

SYNERGEI · “WORK TOGETHER”

Our word “synergy”: things working together that could not produce the result alone.

The golden chain

GOD IS THE SUBJECT OF EVERY VERB · ROMANS 8:29–30



FOREKNEW	PREDESTINED	CALLED	JUSTIFIED	GLORIFIED
set His love on them beforehand (v29)	marked out to be conformed to the image of His Son	summoned — "called according to His purpose"	declared righteous; no charge stands (v33)	past tense — so sure it is as good as done

"Those whom … these whom … these whom … these whom" — the same people at every link.

No one drops out between foreknown and glorified (Henry: "a golden chain, which cannot be broken").

Five verbs, one Subject, the same people at every link — and the last link is already written in the past tense.

More Than Conquerors

Five questions no one can answer — and nothing that can separate us

ROMANS 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

DAVID GUZIK

Guarded by an “if”; one person plus God is a majority.

R.C. SPROUL

Deus pro nobis; the verdict is in; no higher court of appeal.

C.H. SPURGEON

The anvil breaks the hammers; beware the bear’s hug of prosperity.

MATTHEW HENRY

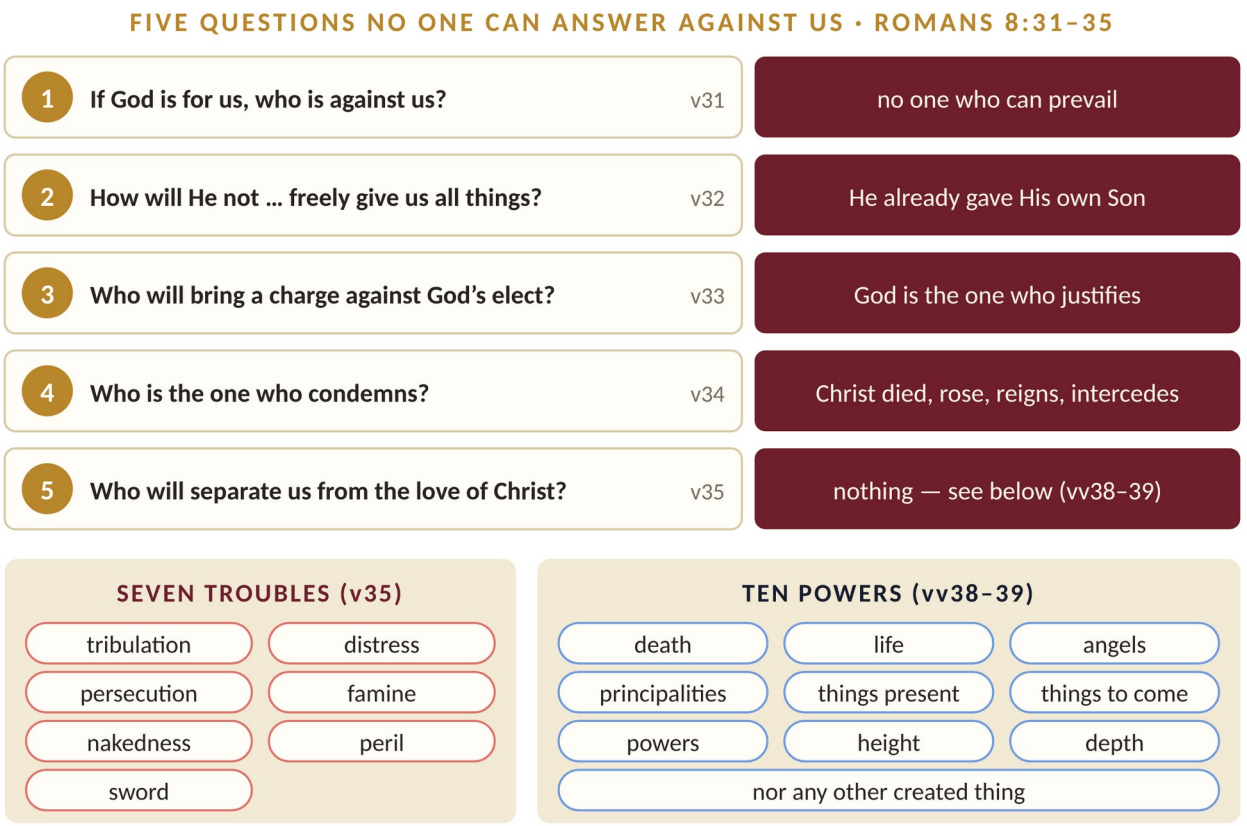
The bond cancelled, the judgment vacated; love rests in Christ.

ὑπερνικῶμεν

HYPERNIKŌMEN · “WE OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER”

Nikaō is “to conquer” (the root of the name Nike); hyper pushes it past the limit — “super-conquer.”

Five questions and seventeen things that cannot separate



None of them "will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (v39).

Each of Paul's questions has the same answer — Christ — and every trouble and power he can name is listed only to be shut out.

What to carry from this chapter

1

“No condemnation” and “no separation” are bookends.

Verse 1 and verse 39 both rest on the words “in Christ Jesus.”

2

The Spirit is the chapter’s main character.

Pneuma appears twenty-one times in Romans 8 — seventeen capitalized by the NASB.

3

The sentence still fell — on sin, in Christ’s flesh.

Katakrima (v. 1) and katekrinen (v. 3): God did not cancel the condemnation; He executed it on sin in His Son.

4

The mind is not neutral.

Phronēma — the whole bent of a life — appears only in this chapter.

More to carry

5

Led by the Spirit means led into holiness.

Sproul: “led by the Spirit” is not private guidance about decisions but the Spirit leading God’s sons toward righteousness — and He never speaks against the Word.

6

Adopted now, adopted in full later.

Huiothesia is a present gift in v. 15 and a future hope in v. 23 — “the redemption of our body.”

7

Three groans, one hope.

Creation groans (v. 22), we groan (v. 23), the Spirit groans (v. 26) — and the groaning is labor, not death.

8

“Glorified” is already past tense.

All five verbs of the chain are aorist.

Talk it through

1. Where do I still live as if I were under condemnation — replaying old guilt, waiting for the sentence to fall?

2. What has my mind been set on this week? If someone read my thoughts, would they say “flesh” or “Spirit”?

3. Name one deed of the body I need to put to death, by the Spirit, starting today — and who will help me keep at it.

4. Many of us grew up with absent or harsh fathers. What changes when I can call God “Abba! Father!”?

5. What suffering am I carrying that I have never weighed against “the glory that is to be revealed”?

CLOSING

Romans 8 begins in a courtroom where the Judge has already spoken and ends with a love that holds when everything else lets go. Between them the Spirit dwells, leads, adopts, groans and prays. If you are in Christ Jesus, there is no condemnation for you today, and there will be no separation from Him ever.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study, reflection journal and film: see the Romans study page.