

Our Position

KEY VERSES

Romans 8:1-17

KEY THEMES

No condemnation in Christ Jesus

TEACHING NOTES

Outline of Romans 1-8

Separation: the whole world is guilty before God (Romans 1-3)

Justification: believers are justified and declared righteous (Romans 3-5)

Sanctification: the principles of growth: know, consider, surrender (Romans 6-7)

Preservation: secure in God's love (Romans 8)

Glorification: our future is certain (Romans 8)



No condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)



In Christ (Romans 8:1)

No condemnation: Christ died for us (Romans 8:1)

No defeat: the spirit indwells (Romans 8:2-10)

No fear: because God is our father (Romans 8:15)

No despair: God loves us (Romans 8:18-21)

No calamity: God works all things for our good (Romans 8:28)

No adversary: God is for us (Romans 8:37)

No separation: God loves us (Romans 8:39)

Self esteem vs. position

 **Because we belong to Him (Romans 8:1-2)**

Know, Consider, Surrender

 **The Spirit of God living in us (Romans 8:3-15)**

 **God, our dear Father (Romans 8:15-17)**

Heirs with Christ

Lesson objective: *To recognize and live in the reality of what it means to be in Christ*

PERSONAL STUDY**Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Open your time with God by asking Him to help you focus on what He has for you. Ask Him to help you see more clearly the new life you have in Christ.

**Read Romans 8:1-2**

Consider for a moment that you are on trial for killing a child you accidentally hit with your car. You were driving through town and, as you passed a parked car, the child darted out in front of you.

Now you sit in the courtroom awaiting your sentencing. The jury has heard the case. The crucial evidence is that you were speeding so they find you guilty of involuntary manslaughter. As the judge reads your sentencing, he states that you are being condemned of killing this child. You can't believe it. You are overwhelmed with a wide range of emotions. But you sadly admit to yourself, you did cause the child to die. You feel horrible for the family. You feel terrible for yourself.

Suddenly there is a stir in the courtroom. The judge asks for order in the courtroom. The father of this child stands and asks the judge if he can speak. Through a trembling voice he shares of his love for his son. And then he says something amazing; he tells the judge he would like to show mercy on you and forgive you for this act. He asks the judge for the charges against you to be dropped. The judge agrees to his request. You can't believe your ears. Did he really just say what you heard him say? You are free to go. You no longer stand condemned because of this man's willingness to forgive.

In order for us to read Romans 8:1-2 and begin to grasp the full impact of these realities, we need to consider the weight and consequence of what our unforgiven sin deserved. Before placing our faith in what Jesus did for us, we stood condemned before a holy God. But now we have no further condemnation from God for our sin.

In the realization of what God has done for you, what thoughts or feelings come to mind?

In light of God's forgiveness for you, how well do you extend grace and mercy toward those around you? If you struggle to do this, why do you think this is so?

Think about times in your life when you do feel condemned by God. What causes you to feel condemned and not live in the truth that Jesus has completely forgiven you?

Show God your gratitude for His incredible grace by thanking Him personally. Ask God to help you remember you are no longer condemned when you screw up. He has already forgiven you. When you do sin, you can simply humble yourself before Him and thank Him for His continued grace and love. You can also ask Him to help you surrender to the leading of the Spirit when facing temptation to give into what your sin nature wants.

Key verse

Put to memory Romans 8:1. Place the provided scripture card somewhere you can see it throughout the week.

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. – Romans 8:1

Prayer time

Tell God how thankful you are for setting you free from sin. Ask Him to help you live in this freedom and not under false condemnation.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Open your time with God by asking Him to help you focus on what He has for you.

What does it mean to be “In Christ”?

If you’ve been around church for any length of time, you’ve probably realized there are a lot of phrases that get tossed around carelessly. You hear them enough and you lose sight of their rich meaning. Take for example, “I am in Christ.” Let’s try to recover the amazing depth of truth that is communicated in this sentence.

To be in Christ means...

You are no longer...	Because...	Now you have...	In everyday life you can now...	Scriptural Support in Romans 8
Condemned for your sin(s)	Christ died for you	God’s approval	Be confident of your eternal hope	Romans 8:1
Defeated by sin’s power	The Holy Spirit dwells in you	Assurance of victory	Choose to yield to the Holy Spirit’s leading	Romans 8:2-4
A slave of fear	God is your loving Father	Boldness and courage	Face any obstacle	Romans 8:15
In despair	Your present sufferings are short lived	A hope that is certain	Endure and overcome pain and suffering	Romans 8:18-21
A victim of meaningless calamities	All things will be used by God for good	A guarantee that whatever you face will not be for nothing	Accept whatever may come	Romans 8:28
Alone in your struggle against the Adversary	God is your all powerful champion who fights for you	Strength to stand against the devil and his schemes	Move past sins that have held you captive	Romans 8:37
Separated from God	God has embraced you completely	God’s presence with you whether or not you feel it	Live assured of God’s unfailing love	Romans 8:39

The chart above does not include everything you have in Christ. But now when we talk about being “in Christ,” you can be reminded of these amazing truths about your status in Him.

What does it feel like to win the lottery?

You can imagine that winning millions would be earth-shattering. Everything in your world would be redefined in light of your good fortune. The lottery is only won by a select few chosen from among people who spend money to play the game. It is left completely to chance.

But what we have access to in Christ is free, and available to everyone who would believe in Him. As a believer, has your world been redefined in light of your new status? If not, why? Perhaps, we have been selling ourselves short. Use the space below to prayerfully reflect on any of the truths about your new status that you have not been accepting.

Here are some prompts that may help you get you started:

Lord, I have been living like I am still _____.

I know that in Christ I have _____.

I want to embrace all of your Good News for my life but _____

has been standing in the way. In my everyday life, please help me to _____.

Key verse

Continue working to memorize Romans 8:1. Attempt to write it out from memory below.

Prayer time

Give thanks to the Lord that, in the end, everything in your life will be redeemed by His Good News because you are in Christ.

PARENT GUIDE

Discussion

Read Romans 8:1-2 together.

Ask your child if they have ever done something they knew was wrong. Or have they thought about doing something that they knew would be wrong, even if they didn't actually do it. Explain to them that we all have either done or thought something wrong. Ask them if they know what that is called. (*That is called sin.*)

Share with your child that God knew we would sin and that we wouldn't be able to keep His perfect law. But God didn't just leave us in our sinful condition. He sent His Son Jesus who died on the cross for our sins. He gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. When we ask Jesus to forgive us, He does and there is no condemnation (punishment) for our sins.

Talk about your salvation stories together.

Activity

Supplies: water, iodine (available at any drug store), bleach and 3 clear cups

Instructions:

Pour water into one cup. Label that cup **you**.

Mix water and some iodine in the second cup. Label that cup **sin**.

In the third cup put some bleach in and label that cup **Jesus**.

Share with your child about how we might think that it's okay to lie or to sin. Maybe just a little bit. Maybe there's something else you have been tempted to do, but it doesn't seem like a big deal at all. Well, giving in to small temptations leads to bigger problems than we might think. No matter the size of the sin, our lives are no longer clean, clear, and pure before God.

Pour some of the **sin** (iodine mix) cup into the **you** (water) cup.

Show the kids how the water is no longer clean and pure. Share with them that this is what happens when we start to give into temptation.

Explain to your child that when we accept Jesus into our heart, He offers forgiveness to us for all our sins. Our lives don't have to stay all dark, cloudy and nasty looking inside.

Now pour the **Jesus** (bleach) cup into the **you** cup.

Share with your child that Jesus makes us pure and forgives our sins.

Pray with your children. Thank Jesus for all He has done for us.

Parents, if your child has not accepted Christ as their Savior, please ask your child if they would like to pray and make this commitment to Christ. Tell them all they have to do is ask Jesus to forgive their sins and then ask Him to be their Savior and best friend.

ADDITIONAL STUDY**Read Romans 8:3-39****Observation**

(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)

Interpretation

(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)

Application

(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)