

## I Am Convinced, Not Condemned

### John 3:16-17 - NIV

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For ***God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.***

### Romans 8:1-4 – NIV - Life Through the Spirit

**8** Therefore, there is now ***no condemnation*** for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life ***has set you free*** from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so ***he condemned sin*** in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

***Convinced definition*** - to bring (as by argument) to belief, consent, or a course of action

***Condemned definition*** - to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after weighing evidence and without reservation

***When someone is condemned by something,***

- They feel an expression of an adverse judgment.
- The person judging them is unfavorable and strongly disapproves of what the person did.
- Simply, ***they've been found guilty!!!***

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***Because of one man who fell to temptation***

- **Sin entered** into the world
- And **condemned humanity** to a physical death.

***When Adam and Eve sinned, they caused several things to happen in the spiritual and the physical world.***

***\*First, their disobedience brought death into the world.***

**Physically**, when sin entered into the garden, death entered into the lives of God's human creation.

- No longer was the plan of God in control, because man chose to sin.
- When sin is finished it brings death.

**No longer was man going to live forever on earth,**

- because now sin has interrupted the plan of God.

**God still has a plan for us to live forever,**

- But *sin still separates us* from the plan of God for our life.
- No, we will not live forever in our flesh,
- But our spirit will live forever with Him.
- If we allow sin in our lives
- **It will prevent God's plan** from being fulfilled in our lives.

**\*The second thing** was that **Adam and Eve saw themselves as sinners.**

Condemnation entered into the lives of mankind.

- They saw that they were naked,
- And because of their condemnation, they tried to cover themselves.
- Their hearts let them know that they had messed up.

**\*The third thing** was that **they hid themselves from the presence of God.**

- Their condemnation kept them from walking with God.
- Condemnation will **keep you from the presence of God.**
- Even though they had sinned and were hiding from God,
- Because of the condemnation of their heart,
- **God still went to the Garden to meet them.....**
- **Grace and mercy was on God's mind**, even after sin entered into the garden.
- **God knew that His plan** of redemption had just been activated.

**His grace was released at the cross.**

- His grace **isn't dependent** on whether I need it or not.
- He simply says, **My grace is sufficient.**
- That means He doesn't care **what your mistakes are.**
- He doesn't care how **bad of person you are**, or you think you are.
- He looks at your sin and my sin, and **says: Yep, I got that covered.**
- It doesn't matter **what other people say** or think about you.

- I have people in my past that have seen me at my worst.
- **If they saw me now**, they would probably call me a fake or a hypocrite.
- ***The fact is my past is my past!!!***

**Condemnation** is trying it's best to make you quit. It's trying to keep you oppressed, depressed, and compressed. But, ***I am convinced, not condemned!!!!***  
***I am trying my best today to convince you that God's Grace is sufficient for you.***  
***Because I am convinced:***

- ***My sins*** are washed in the blood of the Lamb.
- ***I am not*** saved by my works
- All of the good works I could ever do **would not** cover the mistakes of my past.
- **I can't fix** all my problems
- But, ***I have a God who loves me so much it does!!!!***

**His love still releases me from condemnation.**

- **His love still conquers** the shame in my life.
- **My God** is still the God of Grace.
- **He steps into** the middle of my mess.
- **He said** He would never leave us, or forsake us.
- **He promised** not to put on us more than we could handle.
- For every trial, and every mess that we make,
- ***He would provide us a way of escape!!!!!!***
- **He's not going to quit on you**, just because you made a mistake.

**I am convinced, not condemned.**

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**But I know this one thing, if I don't know anything else:**

- The Bible says that He loved us from the foundation of the world.
- He loved me enough to go to Calvary.

***He loved me when He filled me with His spirit.***

- He loved me enough that He took me back and restored my relationship with Him.
- He loved me yesterday.
- I am just crazy enough to be convinced that He still loves me today.

*If He could love me when I was a sinner,*

- Then **why wouldn't He** love me when I fail.

*His Grace isn't* measured out by the teaspoon,

- His Grace is measured by His hand.
- He's got the whole world in his hand.

**That must mean that there is enough Grace for everyone.**

- It must mean that **His grace is enough** to convince me that **I can make it.**
- ***I can go forward*** another day with him.

The reason **why** a lot of people are not receiving the Holy Spirit is ***they are living condemnation;***

- Not living convinced that ***we are forgiven.***

***Some are living with the fact that we sinned*** last year, last month, yesterday, or even this morning.

- ***Get over it!!!!***
- **Quit** living life with *condemnation*, and start living *convinced*.

**When your convinced, no one can change your mind!!!!!!!**

***When you're convinced,*** you tell others about what your convinced of.

- Just ask a democrat or a republican,
- they will tell you which issue or political figure their ***convinced*** about.

***My relationship with God isn't fiction, it's fact.***

- See ***you can't*** tell me otherwise.
- **My God has** delivered me from addiction.
- **My God has** healed my body.
- **My God has** provided for me and my family.
- **My God has** blessed me time and time again.

**I am convinced, not condemned!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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**When I start feeling condemnation** or **the devil starts reminding me of my past mistakes,** that's when **I remind myself who my Daddy is.**

**I heard a pastor say once:**

- The devil is just a **quick change artist**.
- **He tempts you** with sin and as soon as you touch it,
- **He changes** his clothes, and becomes the accuser of your soul.

**As soon as you sin,**

- The devil starts reminding you that you're a loser
- you're a sinner.....
- you're a failure.....
- ***Then you start to condemn yourself***
- ***Making you feel like you're worthless.***

That's when we pray and read our Bible, for it tells us that **there is no condemnation** in Christ Jesus.

- **My heavenly father** doesn't condemn me; he forgives me.
- **He doesn't** throw me out; He brings me closer.
- **He doesn't** cut me off; He gives me more love.
- **He doesn't** quit listening to me; He is listening for me to cry out His name.

***When there is condemnation, He gives me redemption!!!***

- When there is condemnation, ***He gives me restoration.***
- When there is condemnation, ***He gives me grace that is sufficient.***
- And because His grace is sufficient, ***I am convinced that He loves me.***

***Too many Christians are living everyday with condemnation, because they aren't convinced that God loves them.***

- Really, did anyone else you know ***give their life on a cross for you?***
- Did anyone else ***take stripes on their back*** for your healing?
- Did anyone else ***promise you everlasting life?***
- ***Didn't think so...***
- ***That's why I am convinced, not condemned!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

***You can sit there and lived condemned*** by your heart, your conscience, and public opinion, or you can ***get up and be convinced*** that ***God loves you just as you are.***

- He loves you in your mess.
- He loves you in your trial.

God is greater than your condemnation.

- He is greater than your failures.
- He is greater than your guilt.
- He is greater than your shame.

I am convinced that greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world.  
In the world, I am just a sinner.

- In the world, I am just another number on the devil's spreadsheet of condemned souls.

But in Christ Jesus, I am an overcomer.

- In Christ Jesus, my name is written in the book of life.
- In Christ Jesus, I am Joint Heir with Christ.
- In Christ Jesus, I am a child of the King.

**I am convinced, not condemned!!!**

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**The devil tempted Eve and she sinned**.

- She offered it to Adam and he sinned just as willfully as Eve.
- Everyone blames Eve for falling to temptation, but Adam went along with it just as easy.
- **Because of their sin**, condemnation gripped their heart.

**God already knew they had sinned**, but He came to garden anyway to talk to Adam, as He had done every day.

**Genesis 3:7-8 - NIV**

<sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

**They hid themselves from God. Their sin brought condemnation and caused them to hide from God**. Realize, God didn't hide from them, they hid from God.

**After sinning** – Adam and Eve felt guilt and embarrassment over their nakedness.

### **Genesis 3:9-13 - NIV**

<sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and *I was afraid because I was naked*; so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup> And he said, “*Who told you that you were naked?* Have you eaten from the tree that *I commanded you not to eat from?*”

<sup>12</sup> The man said, “*The woman* you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, “*What is this you have done?*”

The woman said, “*The serpent deceived me, and I ate.*”

When God asked Adam about his sin, Adam blamed Eve.

Then Eve blamed the serpent.

How easy it is to excuse our sins by blaming someone else or circumstances.

Rather than admit their sin,

- They turned on each other
- And started blaming everyone else for their mistake.

Rather than living with condemnation,

- How about coming clean with God
- And letting His grace and mercy do what God intended for it to do.

### **Romans 8:34-39 - NIV**

<sup>34</sup> *Who then is the one who condemns?* No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things *we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from *the love of God* that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**CLOSE:**

*Some of you are dealing with condemnation in your life.*

- *The shame of your mistakes ----*
- *is keeping you from what God wants to do in your life.*
- *Isn't it time to let go of the past?????*
- *You can't change the past.....*
- *You can only accept His grace and mercy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!1*

**Are you convinced or condemned???????????????**

**Romans 8:1 – NIV** - Life Through the Spirit

8 Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus...

**“NOT GUILTY”- LET THEM GO FREE! –**

**What would those words mean to you if you were on death row???**

The fact is that the whole human race is on death row, **justly condemned** for repeatedly breaking God's holy law.

Without Jesus we would have ***NO HOPE*** at all....

***BUT THANK GOD!!!!!!!***

*He has declared us **NOT GUILTY** and has offered us freedom from sin and ***POWER*** to do his will.....*

**God wants you to be convinced today!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

*He is waiting at this altar for you.*

*He wants to take away the shame.*

*He wants to take away the condemnation you feel.*

*He is walking the aisles today, waiting for you to call out to Him.*

***Won't you come???????????????***



