

Remnant Life Church  
Sunday, March 6, 2016  
Grace Abounding – Pt 2b  
No Condemnation  
Romans 8:1-11

Grace (def) - the unmerited favor of God toward man

- Satan does not walk in and experience the grace of God
- His desire is for us to carry the sins of our past with us always
  
- The world calls this kind of emotional and mental baggage regret – the Bible calls it condemnation
  
- Condemnation (def) - expressions of very strong criticism and disapproval
  
- And it takes a multitude of forms affecting every and anybody
- So much so that many believe that carrying regret and condemnation is a normal part of life.
- The sad truth is that, apart from the cross, it IS normal
  
- **Romans 8:1** however tells us a truth that is life-changing - *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,*
  
- Condemnation is not of God
- **John 3:16** - ...*will not perish* (the penalty of sin) *but have everlasting life* (the gift of God because of His grace and mercy)
  
- So why is it so difficult for Christians to accept this gift from God and lay down this crippling burden?
- The Great Lie – cultivating and wallowing in your condemnation and shame is pleasing to God and living in a perpetual state of guilt will somehow promote and foster spiritual maturity and holiness.
- The truth is actually just the opposite!
  - God is glorified when we accept and believe in what He has done for us and live in the freedom of His forgiveness of our sins

**REVIEW: Luke 7:36-50**

- The Setting
  - Jesus has been invited to eat at the home of Simon a prominent Pharisee (change of tactic?)
  - The basic social courtesies and customs of the day (wash the feet; a kiss of greeting; oil to refresh) had not been extended to Jesus
  - Simon did none of those things – so obvious that EVERYONE would have noticed

- A woman enters the house
    - < Planted by Simon?
    - < Or a woman who had been convicted by Jesus' words of how she lived?
  - Whatever the circumstances her conviction overwhelms her and she begins to weep
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- Simon (the great religious leader) missed the significance of the woman's act – she did what he would not
- His focus, like people today interested only in religion, was on what was proper (the outside)
  - This was the focus of the Pharisees
  - Jesus called them on this throughout His ministry (**Matt 6:5**)
- Jesus was focused on what was transforming her life (the inside)

Are you willing to choose to accept God's forgiveness in your life to make a change in who you are and how you live or do you believe that applies to other people but not to you?

The Promise: **I John 1:9** – *If we confess our sins...*

1. No condemnation – Jesus set us free
  - **Rom 8:1-4** *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.\* 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, 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*
  - \* The Mosaic Law given at Mt. Sinai
    - < Given by God to a people who had no law to live by except the laws of Egypt and those pertaining to being an Egyptian slave
    - < God was establishing a way of living (one of holiness – word used 152 times more than in any other book of the Bible) that was brand new – social and legal rules for a free people
    - < He created an intermediate place between lawlessness and living in love for one another that Jesus would bring some 1400 years later
    - < Called for physical punishment for crimes or sin (eye for an eye...**Ex 21:24**) – permanent reminders of the sin
    - < Called for required sacrifices to atone for sin (**Leviticus**)
    - < The burnt sacrifice with incense was the command to remove the penalty for sins committed (**Lev 16:12-14**)
    - < Those were the “laws of sin and death” that Paul wrote of in Rom 8.
    - < We live now however not by the law but the grace of God in **I John 1:9**
2. No condemnation – the Holy Spirit empowers us to live day to day without it
  - **Rom 8:5-11** - *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on*

*what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

- How do live a life free from condemnation, guilt, and shame?
  - The moment you sense the condemnation coming on rebuke the thought and give it over to God (...we take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ. **2 Cor 10:5**)
  - Refuse to participate in conversation that rehashes the sin (*as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.* **Ps 103:12**)
  - Your words give life to the thoughts of your mind – in light of that...
  - Keep the scripture that pronounces your forgiveness fresh in your mind (*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* **1 John 1:9**)
  - Also – Reread **Rom 8:5-11** when these thoughts begin to come

First 3 memory verses as a church:

**Rom 8:28** - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

**Phil 4:13** - *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

**Psalms 34:1** - *I will extol (praise) the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.*

- Professor teaching a NT class when during a lecture a first-year student raised his hand and said, “Jesus never met a prostitute.”
  - Take him to **Luke 7**
  - Several times back and forth, “Professor, you’re not listening to me...”
  - Finally the student explained, “How do you think Jesus looked at that woman or at Mary Magdalene? As a sinful woman or as one who His Father loved and had forgiven?”



- How do you think God sees you this morning?
  - As a sinner who did all the things you have done that keep you in condemnation?
  - Or as His child – forgiven and loved
- Let this morning be the day that you leave the past in the past covered by the blood of Jesus
- **I John 1:9** – if we confess our sins...
- Lift your hand to declare I am refusing to live any longer under the weight of condemnation and guilt – your forgiveness (if you have confessed and asked for forgiveness) is given and secure – will you choose to act, think, and live that way to God's glory?