

Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome – Part 2 (Winter 54/55)

Romans 5–8

Peace and Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ

5:1 Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 2 through whom we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of God's glory.
 3 Not only this, but we also rejoice in sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
 4 and endurance, character, and character, hope.
 5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
 7 (For rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person perhaps someone might possibly dare to die.)
 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 9 Much more then, because we have now been declared righteous by his blood, we will be saved through him from God's wrath.
 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by his life?
 11 Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.

Adam's Sin Contrasted With God's Gracious Gift

12 So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all people because all sinned—
 13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world, but there is no accounting for sin when there is no law.
 14 Yet death reigned from Adam until Moses even over those who did not sin in the same way that Adam (who is a type of the coming one) transgressed.
 15 But the gracious gift is not like the transgression. For if the many died through the transgression of the one man, how much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ multiply to the many!
 16 And the gift is not like the one who sinned. For judgment, resulting from the one transgression, led to condemnation, but the gracious gift from the many failures led to justification.
 17 For if, by the transgression of the one man, death reigned through the one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ!
 18 Consequently, just as condemnation for all people came through one transgression, so too through the one righteous act came righteousness leading to life for all people.
 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of one man many will be made righteous.
 20 Now the law came in so that the transgression may increase, but where sin increased, grace multiplied all the more,
 21 so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul Explains Who We Are In Christ

6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to remain in sin so that grace may increase?
 2 Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
 3 Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
 4 Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life.
 5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united in the likeness of his resurrection.
 6 We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
 7 (For someone who has died has been freed from sin.)
 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
 9 We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he is never going to die again; death no longer has mastery over him.
 10 For the death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Paul Exhorts Us to Live Out in Practice What is True of Us in Spirit

11 So you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires,
 13 and do not present your members to sin as instruments to be used for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead and your members to God as instruments to be used for righteousness.
 14 For sin will have no mastery over you, because you are not under law but under grace.

Illustration of Master and Slave—We are the Slave of Whatever We Obey

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not!

16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or obedience resulting in righteousness?

17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves to sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching you were entrusted to,

18 and having been freed from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.

19 (I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.) For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness.

21 So what benefit did you then reap from those things that you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death.

22 But now, freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit leading to sanctification, and the end is eternal life.

23 For the payoff of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Illustration of Husband and Wife—We are Released from the Law by Our Death in Christ

7:1 Or do you not know, brothers and sisters (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law is lord over a person as long as he lives?

2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of the marriage.

3 So then, if she is joined to another man while her husband is alive, she will be called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she is joined to another man, she is not an adulteress.

4 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you could be joined to another, to the one who was raised from the dead, to bear fruit to God.

5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful desires, aroused by the law, were active in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

6 But now we have been released from the law, because we have died to what controlled us, so that we may serve in the new life of the Spirit and not under the old written code.

The Nature of the Relationship Between the Law and Sin (as seen in Paul's life prior to conversion)

7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! Certainly, I would not have known sin except through the law. For indeed I would not have known what it means to desire something belonging to someone else if the law had not said, "*Do not covet.*" [[Exod 20:17](#)]

8 But sin, seizing the opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of wrong desires. For apart from the law, sin is dead.

9 And I was once alive apart from the law, but with the coming of the commandment sin became alive

10 and I died. So I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life brought death!

11 For sin, seizing the opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it I died.

12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good.

13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? Absolutely not! But sin, so that it would be shown to be sin, produced death in me through what is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

The Law's Inability to Deliver from the Bondage of Sin (as seen in Paul's life prior to conversion)

14 For we know that the law is spiritual—but I am unspiritual, sold into slavery to sin.

15 For I don't understand what I am doing. For I do not do what I want—instead, I do what I hate.

16 But if I do what I don't want, I agree that the law is good.

17 But now it is no longer me doing it, but sin that lives in me.

18 For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I want to do the good, but I cannot do it.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but I do the very evil I do not want!

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer me doing it but sin that lives in me.

21 So, I find the law that when I want to do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the law of God in my inner being.

23 But I see a different law in my members waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that is in my members.

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Life in the Spirit (union with Christ) Contrasted With Life in the Flesh

8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

3 For God achieved what the law could not do because it was weakened through the flesh. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

4 so that the righteous requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 For those who live according to the flesh have their outlook shaped by the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their outlook shaped by the things of the Spirit.

6 For the outlook of the flesh is death, but the outlook of the Spirit is life and peace,

7 because the outlook of the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to the law of God, nor is it able to do so.

8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to him.

10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is your life because of righteousness.

11 Moreover if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit who lives in you.

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh

13 (for if you live according to the flesh, you will die), but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live.

Our Adoption as Sons of God

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit himself bears witness to our spirit that we are God's children.

17 And if children, then heirs (namely, heirs of God and also fellow heirs with Christ)—if indeed we suffer with him so we may also be glorified with him.

Present Suffering and Future Glory

18 For I consider that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the glory that will be revealed to us.

19 For the creation eagerly waits for the revelation of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly but because of God who subjected it—in hope

21 that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of God's children.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers together until now.

23 Not only this, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with endurance.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes on behalf of the saints according to God's will.

28 And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose,

29 because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

30 And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"

31 What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, freely give us all things?

33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the one who died (and more than that, he was raised), who is at the right hand of God, and who also is interceding for us.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

36 As it is written, "*For your sake we encounter death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.*" [[Ps 44:22](#)]

37 No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us!

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rulers, nor things that are present, nor things to come, nor powers,
39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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