



## No Condemnation Part 1

Most believers in Christ usually find themselves with self-imposed guilt and an unclean conscience, resulting in expecting a divine sentence. Sadly, these believers in Christ uphold this guilt as a crucial “Christian” emotion in order to live a life of repentance towards God. To their knowledge, this guilt they’re feeling is the way God calls them back into fellowship with Him to try to shake off condemnation.

Something different can be said of a young man who left the care and warmth of his father's home in pursuit of lustful desires and selfish ambitions with his new pre-inheritance income in his wallet. As he walked away from his father's presence, only one foolish thought dominated him – “I will live as I please.” There came a point in time when no one knew about him until God’s mercy and grace caught up to the young man's life. This is how this story just begins.

The story I am talking about is the story of the prodigal son, which reveals our Father's true heart towards man. Notice that the young man was still way off when the father **ran** to him. This is a story where we see God running towards an unrepentant man. The Bible tells us that the young man wanted to come home only because he wanted to satisfy his hunger, so he created a whole line of excuse in order to fool his father. In spite of his son's sin and wrong living and wrong motivation for coming back home, the Father lavished his love on him so much that it didn't even give his son the chance to recite the whole excuse he had rehearsed.

**The Father didn't condemn him.** You will not find any words of condemnation in this parable but rather words of Grace towards this young man. This is called, **no condemnation.**

### **Romans 8:1**

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

This verse forever steps on most theology today. The theology that says, “You must first repent, then God will not condemn,” is a theology that goes against the Gospel of Christ. This type of teaching only encourages believers in Christ to keep short accounts with God, in fear of stepping out of line. And guess what? Eventually those believers in Christ are so conscious of their actions that eventually they do step out of line, and all they have left is condemnation and their performance to try to “appease” a God who is “condemning” them.

The word *condemnation* in the original Greek means, “damnatory sentence.” Unfortunately, most of today's churches are the greatest promoters of condemnation, and this is the reason why people are not coming to Jesus the way we would like. This is why many are walking out on churches all across the globe.

As a believer in Christ, you are free from all condemnation because the judgment for all your sins fell on Jesus. God is no longer angry at you. Let me also clarify that neither is God angry at non-believers.

### **1 John 2:2, EXB**

He died in our place to take away [is the atoning sacrifice/propitiation for] our sins [his death pays the penalty and removes God's anger from us], and not only our sins but the sins of all people [the whole world]

The blood of Christ has reconciled God and man and has caused the unmerited favor of God to appear to all men, believer or non-believer. Jesus became our propitiation. The word *propitiation* is the Greek word *Hilasmus* which means "to appease." Propitiation properly deals with the wrath of God. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, all wrath has been consumed.

Now, listen carefully, Jesus died for the whole world but that doesn't mean everyone is saved. There's only one way to the Father, and that's by **believing** in Christ.

- For the believer: Christ resides perpetually within for having received Jesus as the Christ.
- For the non-believer: All sins have already been paid for but now the non-believer must receive the payment through faith in Christ.

Since Christ died for everybody, everybody therefore can be saved. It's just a matter of them coming to receive that salvation. And so, our responsibility is to preach the Gospel of Christ to people and invite to come and take the salvation that's been provided for them.

### **Romans 8:3, NIRV**

But God did what the written law could not do. He made his Son to be like those who have a sinful nature. He sent him to be an offering for sin. In that way, he judged sin in his Son's human body.

God is not condemning you or me. Why? Because at the cross, Jesus became sin and suffered all judgment from our Father so, today, there would be no condemnation for you. Sin has been forever judged in His body once and for all for the sin you have committed, are committing and will commit. You weren't just declared not-guilty but you were absolved as if you never committed any sin.

A well-known Christian author and speaker said it like this:

- "To be justified means more than to be declared 'not guilty.' It actually means to be declared righteous before God. It means God has imputed or charged the guilt of our sin to His Son, Jesus Christ, and has imputed or credited Christ's righteousness to us." – **Jerry Bridges**

For the world, God is not about to bring a wave of judgment through a natural disaster, disease outbreak or social unrest. Why? Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, non-believers are currently under a dispensation of mercy until the coming judgment stated in the Book of Revelation.

But worry not. As a believer in Christ, you can be sure that there is no condemnation for you because you are already in His arms. Amen.

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