

# **ROMANS 8: THE HEART OF IT ALL#2**

## **Romanos 8: El Corazón de Todo**

The Heart of the Gospel and the Book of Romans  
El Corazón del Evangelio y el Libro de Romanos

OPENING ILLUSTRATION: THE LAW AND THE COOKIE MONSTER  
(This is personal, not a sermon spice video clip)

Sounds like Paul's dilemma in Romans 7. He used the example of coveting; I used the example of overeating cookies. You can fill in the blank with your struggle: alcohol, drugs, overeating, spending, sex of various types including porn, etc.

Reading from the Message

7But I can hear you say, "If the law code was as bad as all that, it's no better than sin itself." That's certainly not true. The law code had a perfectly legitimate function. Without its clear guidelines for right and wrong, moral behavior would be mostly guesswork. Apart from the succinct, surgical command, "You shall not covet," I could have dressed covetousness up to look like a virtue and ruined my life with it.

8-12Don't you remember how it was? I do, perfectly well. The law code started out as an excellent piece of work. What happened, though, was that sin found a way to pervert the command into a temptation, making a piece of "forbidden fruit" out of it. The law code, instead of being used to guide me, was used to seduce me. Without all the paraphernalia of the law code, sin looked pretty dull and lifeless, and I went along without paying much attention to it. But once sin got its hands on the law code and decked itself out in all that finery, I was fooled, and fell for it. The very command that was supposed to guide me into life was cleverly used to trip me up, throwing me headlong. So sin was plenty alive, and I was stone dead. But the law code itself is God's good and common sense, each command sane and holy counsel.

*Romanos 7:7-12*

*7 ¿Significa todo esto que la ley de Dios es pecado? ¡De ninguna manera! La ley no es pecado. Lo que sucede es que la ley me descubrió el pecado que había en mí, del cual yo no me habría percatado si no hubiera sido por la ley. Así que, por ejemplo, no me habría*

*dado cuenta de que mi corazón encerraba el pecado de la codicia, si la ley no me hubiera dicho: No codiciarás.*

*8-12 Pero el pecado, que sin la ley estaría muerto, aprovechándose del mismo mandato que condena a la codicia, me llenó de codicia el corazón. Por eso yo me sentía bien antes de comprender lo que la ley requiere, pero cuando lo comprendí me di cuenta de que el pecado estaba en mí y que, en consecuencia, yo estaba muerto. Y así fue que el mismo mandato que había sido dispuesto para darnos vida, me condenó irremisiblemente a muerte; porque el pecado se valió del propio mandamiento para engañarme y darme muerte. De todo lo cual resulta que la ley con sus mandamientos es verdaderamente santa y buena.*

This passage of scripture can be taken in a defeated way to be a Christian always defeated and constantly in sin.

I believe with many much smarter than me that this represents a person who knows God's law, and is trying to live up to it on their own. No Way!

In chapter seven and eight we find three laws spoken about.

The focus of chapter eight is the Law or power of principle of the Spirit. We will focus on this one next week. Jesus died on a cross to provide forgiveness for your sins. When we submit to Christ and ask him, He sends the Spirit of God to come and live inside of us bringing his forgiveness.

The Holy Spirit when allowed cleans us up and begins directing and ordering our lives inside and out. The goal of the Christian life is to live daily under or in the power of the Holy Spirit or the law of the Spirit. The H.S. is a law in a sense because the H.S. brings God's plan and direction into our hearts. Ezekiel said that the Holy Spirit would write God's law on our hearts. When we follow the H.S. we will always keep God's law.

The second law/power/principle is also the focus of next week's sermon. It is the law that Paul says he discovered at work in his life. It enslaved him; it is the law of the flesh or carnal nature. It is a

The law of God given to Moses and written down in the Old Testament. The law was given to begin the process of bringing a person to God. The law is supposed to make a person feel guilty. This is the most obvious law. The law points out God's command; before I knew it I didn't worry about it. Many in our world now have no idea that God law says, living together

before marriage is sin. The don't feel guilty about it, however, when the light comes on then the struggle begins.

A guilty conscience is a tough thing, God created it to be tough. It is supposed to hound you and haunt you, make you feel miserable.

YouTube Illustration from "Inside of myself" An original poem.

"Original Poem: Hidden Inside Myself-Misery of a Guilty Conscience

I've been up for days  
trying to find a way  
to write my confession down  
every line I write it's hard to admit  
must I admit it all?  
How will I ever finish?

I guess there's no way around  
the truth  
because I know God that I'm surrounded by you  
even in my shame  
when I hide  
you follow me  
and I hear you deep inside

when I hear that sound of my conscience asking  
"how much longer can you pretend? When will it be too much"?  
"Are you brave enough to be honest now"?  
since I began writing  
I haven't been able to put my pen down

My verdict has come in  
it seems I'm guilty for my sins  
thought I could escape  
but knew I would have to pay someday

so I'm guilty for what I have done  
I've deceived them  
with my words somehow  
I've been a liar, a thief  
when all I wanted was love  
but all I want is forgiveness  
and what I seek from above

so I raise up my hands

and pray to my God  
come and take me away  
from this misery  
answer my prayers Lord  
I have kept inside for so long that its cut me deep  
and the guiltiness keeps me awake and I cant sleep”

A guilty conscience is what God wants the law to do in our lives. It helps bring us to Christ. I remember some times of powerful conviction. I remember calling people I knew to be Christians just to see if they were still here and had not been taken in the rapture.

### **Paul in chapter eight deals with a guilty conscience.**

Romans 8:1-4

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. <sup>3</sup> The Law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God destroyed sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. <sup>4</sup> He did this so that the requirement of the law would be fully accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

*1 Ahora pues, a quienes pertenecemos a Cristo Jesús no nos espera ya ninguna condenación, 2 porque la ley del poderoso Espíritu de vida que recibimos por medio de la fe en Cristo Jesús, nos libera de la ley del pecado y de la muerte. 3 El mero conocimiento de la ley de Dios no nos libra de las garras del pecado, porque no somos capaces de cumplirla. Por eso, a fin de darnos la salvación, envió Dios a su propio Hijo con un cuerpo humano igual en todo al nuestro (pero sin pecado), y al entregarlo en sacrificio a causa de nuestros pecados, destruyó el dominio que el pecado ejercía sobre nosotros. 4 Por lo tanto, podremos obedecer a la ley de Dios si nos dejamos guiar por el Espíritu Santo, en vez de obedecer los deseos de nuestra naturaleza pecaminosa.*

Does that sound a bit like chapter seven? You can live as a sinner, defeated constantly or you can step into chapter eight and realize that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Let’s highlight key words and issues in this powerful passage.

Verse 1

**NO CONDEMNATION**

*NINGUNA CONDENACIÓN*

**BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS**

*PERTERNECEMOS A CRISTO JESÚS*

Verse 2

**POWER OF THE SPIRIT & POWER OF THE SIN NATURE**

*EL PODER DEL ESPÍRITU Y EL PODER DE LAS GARRAS DEL PECADO*

**There is power in the sin nature but there is more power in Spirit**

Verses 3 and 4

**GOD SENT HIS SON TO SET US FREE**

*DIOS ENVIÓ A SU HIJO PARA LIBERARNOS*

**Paul uses slavery language in seven, eight and all through this section.  
Notice God destroyed sin's control over us!**

Verse 4

**THE LAW'S REQUIREMENT IS FULLY ACCOMPLISHED**

*EL REQUISITO DE LA LEY ES COMPLETAMENTE LLEVADO A CABO*

**OUR CHOICE TO LIVE BY THE SPIRIT OR BY OUR SINFUL  
NATURE**

*NUESTRA ELECCIÓN PARA VIVIR POR EL ESPÍRITU O POR NUESTRA  
NATURALEZA PECAMINOSA*

**We must accept Christ.**

Closing prayer