



# Romans

Right With God

# Make Up Your Mind

**Lesson Thirty-One**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Romans

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### Make Up Your Mind

We come to one of the most exciting statements in Romans: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Wow! This begins several verses which bring us to life’s ultimate choice. Read Romans 8:1-11. Now, just in case you didn’t let that sink in, I must repeat, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Paul begins this chapter with the word “therefore,” referring back and saying: because of all he had said, there is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus. Because of justification we will not be judged. If we are in Christ Jesus, our sins were judged on the Cross. If not, Paul has made it perfectly clear that God hates sin, and has already made judgment on sin. He has condemned sin, and because of that, sinners are condemned to death.

Does this mean that all of life from the time of our salvation will be sinless? No, absolutely not. Does it mean that we can, by submitting ourselves to the work of God’s Spirit in our lives, overcome sin? Yes, absolutely yes!

The old sheriff is kicked out of town. There is a new sheriff. His name is God, the Holy Spirit. He opened the doors of the sin jail, and set us free from that death sentence that sin had imposed.\*

In Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth, he said, “for as in Adam all die, in Christ shall all be made alive.” I Corinthians 15:22 That is the idea in verses two through four. The law, revealing the weakness in humans who are descendants of Adam, could not pay the price to redeem us from the curse of sin. The law was not weak, humans weakened it by our inability to follow it. But Jesus became the sacrifice for sin. He was a “sin offering.” He paid the full price for our sin and freed us from the curse of sin.

In verses five through eleven, Paul talks a lot about the mind and the two mental positions available to humans. Humans have control of their minds which can be occupied with “natural desires” or be in agreement with the Spirit. He says that people controlled by the flesh, human nature, cannot set their minds on spiritual things. They just don’t get it. The expression “set your mind” means far more than mental process. It includes desire... something one is pressured to do by their nature.

Paul contrasts the Roman Christians with those who are of the flesh...controlled by human nature. They have been granted the Spirit...God’s Holy Spirit...who is more powerful than

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human nature. The Holy Spirit of God actually “lives in them.” God has chosen to move into their lives. He is personally present...that is a literal presence.

Now, in verse nine, Paul makes the choice perfectly clear. He says that those who are controlled by the Spirit have Christ in them. But those who do not have the Spirit of Christ do not belong to Him. He says also, in verse ten, that if Christ lives in you, your body is dead, but your spirit is fully alive.

The only direction for the sinful human nature to go is death. There is absolutely no future there. The only way for the life dominated by the Spirit of God to go is forward. Life leads to life. This life is coming closer and closer to being Christ-like.

Make up your mind. Do you choose death or life? Is Spirit-controlled the way to go for you, or will you remain controlled by human nature, sin-controlled, which leads to death?

**Scripture Memory: “There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1**

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

### **For the Teacher:**

***Lesson Goal: To encourage students to consider life “in the Spirit.”***

1. John 3:18 “Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”
2. A word of clarification: If your Bible has a longer version of 8:1, it is an older translation. At the time of the King James translation, four hundred years ago, they didn’t have many of the manuscripts that were available later. Many of the manuscripts that were available at that time had words that are translated in the KJV, “who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Most of the older manuscripts, available to translators since that time, do not have those words, so most modern translations do not use those words here. They are used in verse four.
3. Two words will make the whole of the eighth chapter clearer. First is the Greek word, *sarx*. It is translated flesh. In Romans 7:5 and in Romans 8:4, 5, 6, 8 and 9, he uses it to describe human nature. This is sinful humans who are not of the redeemed. To live according to the flesh is to live in ways that are contradictory to God’s way. Paul gives a list of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. The second word is Spirit. In this chapter alone, Paul uses the word twenty times. For Paul the Holy Spirit was divine power. Power, not of humans; far beyond the power of humans.
4. Colossians 3:2, 3 says: “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” Everett Harrison says of this passage, “In summary, Paul has named four characteristics of sinful man: hostility toward God, insubordination to His law, failure to please God and death. It is no wonder that when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of the flesh, he went on to declare, “You must be born again.” John 3:7
5. Verse ten assures us of the fact that Christ is in us, so we have the spirit of life. Eternity is in this relationship. Sin kills; Jesus saves. Sin kills; God sends His eternal Spirit to give us life. Now the Spirit’s granting of eternal life is based on righteousness... the righteousness of God... because we have trusted God for the free gift of His righteousness. See, I Corinthians 1:30

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### *Student Worksheet*

#### Make Up Your Mind

=The old sheriff is kicked out of town. There is a new sheriff. His name is \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. He opened the doors of the \_\_\_\_\_ jail, and set us \_\_\_\_\_ from that death sentence  
that \_\_\_\_\_ had imposed.

=But Jesus became the \_\_\_\_\_ for sin. He was a “\_\_\_\_\_ offering.” He paid the full price  
for our sin and \_\_\_\_\_ us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

=Paul makes the choice perfectly clear. He says that those who are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit  
have God in them. But those who do not have the Spirit of Christ do not \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. He says  
also that if Christ \_\_\_\_\_ in you, your body is \_\_\_\_\_, but your spirit is fully \_\_\_\_\_.

=The only direction for the sinful human nature to go is \_\_\_\_\_. There is absolutely, literally,  
no \_\_\_\_\_ in it. The only way for the life dominated by the Spirit of God to go is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Life leads to \_\_\_\_\_. This life is coming closer and closer to being \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture Memory: “There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

#### **Romans 8:1**

##### **A Roman Road to Salvation:**

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

**Romans 6:23a** “For the wages of sin is death.” The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.” God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

**Romans 6:23b** “But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

**Romans 10:9, 10** “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that “God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead” is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, “Jesus is Lord,” as a statement of faith. Believing “with your heart” means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

**Romans 10:13** “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God’s child and have eternal life.

**Romans 12:1, 2** “I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.