



ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

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Week 22: No Condemnation

Introduction:

Romans 8:1

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

Romans 8:1 in Real Time:

The Story of the Woman Caught in Adultery...

John 8:2-6a – A Sin Exploited by Hypocrites

John 8:6b-9 – A Savior Exposing the Truth

John 8:10-11 – A Sinner Exonerated in Grace

We Dare Not Reverse the Order...

1 - "Neither do I condemn you."

2 - "Now go and leave your life of sin."

Life Application:

1. Jesus restores the woman's _____
2. Jesus reveals the woman's _____

The Big Idea:

The Old Covenant mind-set: "Live like this and God will bless you!"

The New Covenant mind-set: "God has blessed you, now live like it!"

The moment we reverse the order is the moment our Christianity ceases to be Christian, and we have traded the Gospel of Jesus for a message from hell.

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Personal Life:

1. If you have been a believer in Christ for awhile, perhaps Romans 8 has already become very meaningful to you. If you are able, share with the group about how Romans 8 has impacted you...

Ponderings:

2. Romans 8:1 is a crescendo of what Paul had communicated in chapter 7 about his intense struggle with sin whenever he put himself back under a law-based mind-set. Look back again at the last few verses in Romans 7 and talk about how Romans 8:1 is specifically connected...
3. In the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:2-11), Jesus stands in her defense, declares forgiveness over her, and then sets her free to live a new life instead of returning to her sin...in that order. How is this different than the "religion" that most people are accustomed to?
4. In many Bibles there is a footnote stating that John 8:2-11 is not found in some of the earliest available manuscripts.* However, it is consistent with every other story and doctrine taught in John's gospel. This is in contrast to the addition of the words at the end of Romans 8:1, which changes the clear meaning of the statement. Discuss the importance of this based on the following thoughts and questions:

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

Later Addition – Who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

- How does this addition change the meaning of the statement?
- Why do you suspect that this statement was grabbed from Romans 8:4 and inserted on the end of Romans 8:1?
- Why is it important to understand that attempting to put "conditions" upon God's unconditional promises has been going on for centuries?

Promptings:

5. Is there someone in your life who needs to hear the words "Neither do I condemn you" or "I forgive you" either from God or from you? Are you willing to be that messenger in the week ahead?
6. Is there anyone in your life who needs you to help them discover that because of God's unconditional grace, they are free to live in a new way and leave their life of sin? Are you willing to be that messenger also?