



Who Am I?

“Identity: I Am Free From Condemnation”

Romans 8:1-4

Sunday | January 17th, 2016 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Romans 8:1-4 *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”*

(See also Rom. 6:10, 8:30, Heb. 9:9-12, 10:4, 10:10, Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 3:2-3)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Neil Anderson] *“When I was in the Navy, one of my favorite pastimes was photography. At one time, I had taken more than 800 slides while discovering the country of Japan. I turned them all in for development when we hit the next port. Because of an assigned duty, I had to trust another person to pick them up for me the day before we sailed. I was anxious to see them, so at the crack of dawn I was searching for my trusted friend. He was nowhere to be found.*

Finally, I was informed that he was waiting for me on the second deck. Bounding up the ladder to the 02 level, I discovered my friend waiting for me with his fists raised. ‘Alright, let’s get it over with,’ he said.

‘What in the world are you talking about,’ I asked.”

It turned out that he had gotten drunk and lost all my pictures! I was furious. I have never beaten up anybody, though I confess I have thought about it a few times, and this was one of those times. If we had gotten into a fight, it wouldn’t have gone well for my friend, as I was 50 pounds heavier and far more athletic. ‘Put your fists down,’ I said, ‘I’m not going to do anything to you. Just tell me what happened and let’s see what we can do about it.’ He told me his story and there

wasn’t anything we could do about it! The pictures were gone. I had a choice: I could seek revenge or forgive him. I chose the latter and bore the consequences of his sin, which was the loss of something very valuable to me.”¹

DISCUSS

1. What was Anderson’s friend afraid of as he stood there with his fists raised?²
2. Talk about the fear of separation. Where does that fear show up in the human experience? Why is the fear so strong?
3. Where does the fear of separation originate?³
4. What was God’s answer to the separation we experienced in the Garden?⁴
5. Read Anderson’s story (above) and as a group, identify the Gospel parallels.
6. Read Rom. 1:18-32. And then Read Rom. 8:1-4. How did we get to chp. 8 from chp. 1? Discuss.
7. In Christ, what does it feel like to be forever free from condemnation?
8. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

¹Neil Anderson, *Living Free In Christ* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1993), p. 109.

²Judgment, punishment, separation relationally, etc...

³See Gen. 3.

⁴Substitution (e.g. Passover, sacrificial system, and ultimately the cross).