



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Dealing with Desires*
Message: *Stop Trying Start Living*

Scripture: *Romans 8:1-4*

Date: February 8-9, 2020

—[LET'S START]—

Pastor Dale concluded the follow-up to our Identity series this week. Think over the past six weeks. What will you remember most about what you have learned?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. Read John 8:1-11. What does this very familiar story teach us about Jesus? What would it have been like to be the woman in the story? What about the religious leaders – what would it have been like to be them? What lesson was Jesus trying to teach?
3. Read Romans 8:1-17. What do these verses teach us about Christ? What do they teach us about ourselves? What was Paul teaching about condemnation in these verses? Is what Paul taught easy or difficult to believe for you? Why? What factors contribute to how we feel about our position in Christ?
4. Read Romans 8:18-39. What does the rest of this chapter teach us about our position in Christ? What does it teach us about suffering? Why do you suppose God allows His children to endure suffering?
5. Look again at Romans 8:8. In her sermon Pastor Dale said that this verse teaches us that, "ALL CONDEMNATION past, present and future is removed from you! You will never ever be condemned again. Christ took all the eternal judgement that you and I deserve on himself so that we could be eternally forgiven." How does that make you feel today?
6. Read 1 John 1:9. How often do you confess your sins to Christ? What does that look like for you? Why is confession so important for us as believers, when the Bible teaches that all condemnation past, present and future is removed from us and that we will never be condemned again?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Last week Pastor Dale encouraged us to take a fourteen day challenge to pray and visualize Galatians 2:20. Let's do that together as we leave.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- The key to victory is found only in Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- The presence of the Spirit doesn't guarantee there's not going to be an ongoing battle in our nature to want to fulfill our desires rather than the desires of God.
- The Holy Spirit is referred to 19 different times in Romans 8. So the ministry of the Holy Spirit is key to victory in our Christian lives.
- Romans 8 teaches us that as sincere believers we are no longer condemned.
- One of the keys to experiencing spiritual victory is to remember that no amount of moralizing will ever make me deserving of God's grace.
- When you become a follower of Jesus your condemnation as a sinner is taken away.
- The moment you receive Christ into your life ALL CONDEMNATION past, present and future is removed from you! You will never ever be condemned again. Christ took all the eternal judgement that you and I deserve on himself so that we could be eternally forgiven.
- The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convince you and me that there is no longer any condemnation against us from God. To the degree that you and I come to agree, accept and rejoice in this truth we will experience spiritual victory in our lives. The opposite is also obviously true. To the degree you doubt the forgiveness and love of God your faith will be a struggle.
- In every other paradigm you have to perform, you have to earn it over and over again. But in Christianity once you are born again by surrendering yourself completely to Christ you are given the eternal status of being forgiven.
- If you really believe that God loves you and that he has forgiven and removed your condemnation, then you know you can trust Him. You can choose to trust His Holy Spirit and learn to listen and obey Him. He has nothing but the best in mind for you even if it requires suffering because you live in this sinful and broken world.
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