



Pastor's Comments

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No Condemnation?

Did you ever notice how hard it is to get rid of **nagging guilt** – that vague awareness that something is wrong? We've tried to do right, but still there is that **nagging feeling** that we remain **guilty** before the Supreme Judge for what we called our "wild oats," or "youthful indiscretions," or merely "mistakes." We've tried to **bury that guilt** doing good things to feel better about ourselves. After all, we were baptized, learned our catechism word perfect, joined the church, sang in the choir, were confirmed, and our children have been christened and have perfect Sunday School attendance records. Besides all the "religious stuff" we have done, we are good neighbors, pay our bills, pay our taxes, etc. Yet, **why don't we feel secure** about death and whatever comes after? Could those minor weaknesses be called SIN?

Paul the Apostle said in Romans 8:1-4, ***"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*"** Is that our problem? Have we been trying to justify ourselves through the "law" of our own "works"? Do we need to be ***"in Christ Jesus"*** and ***"walk after the Spirit"*** instead? Did He really send His Son **for our sin**, so that we can be righteous, not by doing good things, but because ***"he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"*** (2 Cor. 5:21)?

Maybe we should just give up our efforts to "be good" and **trust Him Who IS good!!!**

–Submitted by church member, Carl Edwards

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