

SMALL GROUP LESSON
NO CONDEMNATION

ROMANS 8:1-17
OCTOBER 8, 2017

Years ago a well known Christian theologian and philosopher, Francis Schaeffer, wrote a book entitled *How Should We Then Live?* It described the development of Western Civilization from the fall of the Roman Empire to our own day and time. In light of all that has transpired from that distant past to today in terms of culture, the arts, history, and intellectual insights, Francis Schaeffer then raised this important question, "In light of all the confusion and misery that has become so prevalent in our world today, where can we go to find any genuine meaning and purpose for our lives?" His answer was "Living by the Christian ethic, acceptance of God's revelation, and total affirmation of the Bible's morals, values and meaning." In a way, that is also what Paul was talking about in Romans 8:1-17. He is comparing the Christian way of life to that of a self-centered, fleshly (only interested in the things that have to do with physical pleasures and pursuits) way of life. With that in mind, let's examine this week's sermon and passage of Scripture and then give serious thought to these questions.

1. Paul says that "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Read verses 1-4 and then answer this question. How have we escaped God's condemnation because of Christ Jesus? What has He done for us? You may even want to reflect upon last week's sermon as you think about this question.
2. How do I know that Christ lives in me? Read verses 5 – 9 and then ask yourself, "How does the focus of my life, the things that consume my interest and time, indicate who or what actually is in control of the way I live?"
3. If a person is a Christian, what kind of obligation does that individual have with regards to the way he or she lives? Read verses 12-17 to find the answer to this question.
4. According verses 12-17, what benefits are reserved for those who live according to the Spirit as opposed to those who live according to the flesh?