

# THE SPIRIT AND THE LAW OF GOD VERSUS THE FLESH!

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**NOTE:** - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

## AN EXAMINATION OF ROMANS 8:1 – 10: -

Romans 8:1 & 2: - “[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.**”

**NOTE:** - Those who are **in** Christ [that is, those who are abiding in Christ] are not under condemnation, because they walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ, has freed those who are in Christ, from the “law of sin and death. The phrase “**the law of sin and death**” is referring back to Paul’s argument in the previous chapter, to the law of sin in our flesh or members. That is, the natural carnal mind.

Romans 7:23 – 25: - “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, **and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but **with the flesh the law of sin.**”

**NOTE:** - The carnal mind has a natural tendency to disobey God’s Law, and enslaves us to serve sin which brings death. But the Spirit of life in Christ, has freed the Christian from this slavery to this law of sin and death, so that we can **now** serve the Law of God.

Romans 8:3 & 4: - “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.”

**NOTE:** - God sent his Son Jesus Christ, in the **likeness** of sinful flesh, to condemn sin in the flesh, so that those who walk after the Spirit and not the flesh, will have the righteousness of God’s Law **fulfilled in their lives.**

Romans 8:5 – 8: - “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

**NOTE:** - Those who are in the flesh, do mind the things or the lusts of the flesh; while those who are in the Spirit, do mind the things of the Spirit. If we are carnally minded [that is, we have the mind of the flesh], it means

death to us, because we are at enmity with God, as we will **NOT** be subject [that is, obedient] to the Law of God. And while we are in the flesh, we **CANNOT** please God.

The apostle John has stated that we please God when we keep his Commandments.

1st John 3:22: - “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because **we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.**”

Jesus himself demonstrated this truth in his own earthly life in our flesh. He **ALWAYS** did the things that pleased his Father, because he kept his Father’s Commandments.

John 8:29: - “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; **for I do always those things that please him.**”

John 15:10: - “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; **even as I have kept my Father’s commandments,** and abide in his love.”

Let’s go back to Romans 8 again.

Romans 8:9 & 10: - “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.”

**NOTE:** - Paul is writing to the Roman Christians who have experienced justification by faith, and who are no longer walking after the flesh, as they have the indwelling Spirit of God abiding within them. Without the Spirit of Christ, we do **NOT** belong to Jesus. If Christ is truly dwelling within us, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. As we have previously read in VS. 4, those who walk after the Spirit, will have the righteousness of God’s Law **fulfilled in their lives**. In other words, the Spirit will produce the fruit of righteousness within the life of the believer in Jesus.

This is exactly the same message as the apostle John wrote.

1st John 3:24: - “And **he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him.** And hereby we know that he abideth in us, **by the Spirit** which he hath given us.”

## **GALATIANS 5 – THE SPIRIT VERSUS THE FLESH: -**

Galatians 5:16 & 17: - “[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

**NOTE:** - Paul admonishes us to walk in the Spirit, and we will **NOT** fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The flesh and the Spirit are at variance and are contrary to one another; so that a person **CANNOT** be walking after the Spirit, and fulfilling the lusts of the flesh at the same time.

Galatians 5:18: - "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."


**NOTE:** - If we are led of the Spirit, we are not under the Law. This verse is a very much misunderstood passage. A number of Christians misuse this verse to try and "prove", that the Spirit frees a believer in Christ, from having to obey God's righteous Law.

But to rightly understand this verse, we need to let the apostle Paul define for us, his use of the term "**UNDER THE LAW**".

Romans 3:9 – 12 & 19: - "What then? are we better [than they]? No, in no wise: **for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.** ... Now we know that what things soever the law saith, **it saith to them who are under the law:** that every mouth may be stopped, **and all the world may become guilty before God.**"

**NOTE:** - In this passage, Paul has defined for us the term "**UNDER THE LAW**", as being "**GUILTY BEFORE GOD**". Or, in other words, "**being under the condemnation of the Law**". We also find that **all the world, both Jews and Gentiles,** are **ALL** under the condemnation of the Law, because we have **all** sinned.

Romans 3:23: - "**For all have sinned,** and come short of the glory of God."

 "**UNDER THE LAW**" = "**TO BE UNDER THE CONDEMNATION OF THE LAW**". When Paul uses the expression "**we are under the law**" in Romans and Galatians, he is referring to those who have **NOT** yet experienced justification by faith, and thus they are under the condemnation of the law, as being guilty sinners in God's sight. When Paul uses the expression "**we are not under the law**" in Romans and Galatians, he is referring to those who **have** experienced justification by faith, and thus they are no longer under the condemnation of God's Law as guilty sinners, and who are actually having the righteousness of God's Law **fulfilled in their lives**.. The following passage from Paul' pen will reinforce this truth for the reader.

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.** ... That **the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**"

### **THE WORKS OF THE FLESH: -**

Galatians 5:19 – 21: - "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, **and such like:** of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

**NOTE:** - We need to be aware that this list is **NOT** a complete list of the works of the flesh, as in VS. 21, the apostle uses the expression “**and such like**”; indicating that in his list, he is giving us a thorough summary of the works of the flesh, but it is **NOT** an exhaustive list.

From what we have already found in Romans 8, concerning the carnal mind [or the mind of the flesh], we should be able to see, that **ALL** the works of the flesh that Paul has listed in Galatians 5:19 – 21, are violations of the Ten Commandment Law. Remember that Paul wrote “**the carnal mind ... is not subject [that is, obedient – compiler] to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**” – Romans 8:7.

I shall examine a few of the works of the flesh, and I shall establish beyond any doubt, that they are indeed violations of the Ten Commandment Law.

**Adultery** – is a violation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Exodus 20:14.

**Idolatry** – is a violation of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandments – Exodus 20:3 – 6.

**Hatred** – “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer” - 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:15; this is a violation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Exodus 20:13.

**Heresies** – are false doctrines or false teachings, which of course is teaching something that is **NOT** true. This is a violation of the 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Exodus 20:16.

**Envyings** – this is jealousy, which of course is coveting what belongs to another person, which is a violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Exodus 20:17.

**Murders** – this is a violation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment – Exodus 20:13.

☞ Clearly, the works of the flesh are **ALL** violations of the Ten Commandment Law, and those who do such things **CANNOT** inherit the Kingdom of God. Truly, the carnal mind or the mind of the flesh **CANNOT** be subject or obedient to the spiritual Law [See Romans 7:14] of God.

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: -

Galatians 5:22 – 24: - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

**NOTE:** - Paul contrasts the fruit of the Spirit, with the works of the flesh. And as the Spirit and flesh are contrary and in opposition to each other, those who manifest the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, will be subject or obedient to God's Law. I shall now establish this truth, as I briefly examine the fruit of the Spirit.

#### LOVE: -

Exodus 20:6: - “And showing mercy unto thousands of them that **love me, and keep my commandments.**”

Nehemiah 1:5: - “And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy **for them that love him and observe his commandments.**”

Romans 13:8 – 10: - “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: **for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt**

**not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet;** and if [there be] any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love [is] the fulfilling of the law.**”

1<sup>st</sup> John 5:2 & 3: - “By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:** and his commandments are not grievous.”

### JOY: -

Psalm 19:7 & 8: - “**The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul:** the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple. **The statutes of the LORD [are] right, rejoicing the heart:** the commandment of the LORD [is] pure, enlightening the eyes.”

Psalm 51:12: - “**Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;** and uphold me [with thy] free spirit.”

**NOTE:** - David lost the joy of salvation, by his willful transgression of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Commandments. That is, by his committing adultery and murder.

Psalms 132:9: - “Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; **and let thy saints shout for joy.**”

**NOTE:** - The saints are to shout for joy. Revelation 14:12 defines the saints as “here [are] **they that keep the commandments of God,** and the faith of Jesus.”

Isaiah 56:6 & 7: - “Also **the sons of the stranger**, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, **every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;** Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, **and make them joyful in my house of prayer:** their burnt offerings and their sacrifices [shall be] accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.”

**NOTE:** - The son of the stranger [that is, the gentile], who joins himself unto the Lord to be his servant, and who keeps the Lord’s Sabbath day holy [the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment – See Exodus 20:8 – 11], shall be joyful in the Lord’s house of prayer.

### PEACE: -

Psalm 119:165: - “**Great peace have they which love thy law:** and nothing shall offend them.”

Isaiah 48:17, 18 & 22: - “**Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel;** I [am] the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way [that] thou shouldest go. **O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river,** and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: ... **[There is] no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.**”

**NOTE:** - The wicked are those who forsake God’s Law – “Horror hath taken hold upon me because of **the wicked that forsake thy law.**” - Psalm 119:53.

Romans 8:6 & 7: - “For to be **carnally minded [is] death**; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. **Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**”

**NOTE:** - Those who are carnally minded have no peace with God, because they **CANNOT** be subject or obedient to the Law of God.

### **LONGSUFFERING OR PATIENCE: -**

1st Corinthians 13:4: - “**Charity suffereth long**, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.”

**NOTE:** - One of the qualities of true charity or love is longsuffering.

Romans 2:7: - “To them who **by patient continuance in well doing** seek for glory and honour and immortality, **eternal life.**”

**NOTE:** - The saints through patiently continuing in doing good, **SEEK** for among other things eternal life.

Revelation 14:12: - “**Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God**, and the faith of Jesus.”

**NOTE:** - Patience is one of the qualities possessed by the saints, who are also described as keeping God's Commandments.

### **GENTLENESS: -**

2nd Corinthians 10:1: - “Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and **gentleness of Christ**, who in presence [am] base among you, but being absent am bold toward you.”

**NOTE:** - Paul refers to the gentleness of Christ.

1st Thessalonians 2:7: - “But **we were gentle among you**, even as a nurse cherisheth her children.”

**NOTE:** - Paul was gentle in his gospel labours for the Thessalonians.

James 3:17 & 18: - “But **the wisdom that is from above is** first pure, then peaceable, **gentle**, [and] easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. **And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.**”

**NOTE:** - Being gentle is one of the qualities of the heavenly wisdom and the fruit of righteousness.

## GOODNESS: -

2nd Chronicles 35:26 & 27: - "Now the rest of **the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to [that which was] written in the law of the LORD**, and his deeds, first and last, behold, they [are] written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah."

NOTE: - The acts and goodness of righteous king Josiah were according to what was written in the Law of the Lord

Nehemiah 9:13: - "Thou camest down also upon **mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven**, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, **good statutes and commandments.**"

NOTE: - God's statutes and commandments spoken by himself out of heaven at Mount Sinai are good.

Romans 7:7 & 12: - "What shall we say then? [is] the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except **the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.** ... Wherefore the law [is] holy, and **the commandment** holy, and just, **and good.**"

NOTE: - Paul described the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment which forbids coveting [See Exodus 20:17] as being good.

Romans 15:14: - "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, **that ye also are full of goodness**, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."

NOTE: - Paul recognized that the Christians at Rome were full of goodness.

Ephesians 5:9: - "(For **the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness** and righteousness and truth;)"

NOTE: - The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness.

## FAITH: -

Romans 3:31: - "Do we then make void the law through **faith?** God forbid: yea, **we establish the law.**"

NOTE: - Faith establishes God's Law.

Romans 16:26: - "But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for **the obedience of faith.**"

NOTE: - Paul refers to "the obedience of faith".

Galatians 5:6: - “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love.**”

**NOTE:** - Faith works by love.

Hebrews 11:32 & 33: - “And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and [of] Barak, and [of] Samson, and [of] Jephthae; [of] David also, and Samuel, and [of] the prophets: **Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.**”

**NOTE:** - The righteous people and prophets of the Old Testament Scriptures **wrought** or **worked righteousness through faith.**

James 2:20 - 26: - “**But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent [them] out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.**”

**NOTE:** - Faith without works is dead!

### **MEEKNESS:** -

Psalms 37:11, 29 - 31: - “But **the meek shall inherit the earth;** and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. ... **The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever. The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. The law of his God [is] in his heart;** none of his steps shall slide.”

**NOTE:** - The Psalmist records the truth that the meek shall inherit the earth. He also writes within the same chapter that the righteous shall inherit the land, and then describes the righteous, as a person who has God’s Law in their heart.

Psalms 119:21: - “Thou hast rebuked **the proud** [that are] cursed, **which do err from thy commandments.**”

**NOTE:** - The proud [that is, those who are **NOT** meek], err from God’s Commandments.

Colossians 3:12: - “**Put on therefore, as the elect of God,** holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, **meekness, longsuffering.**”

James 1:21, 22 & 25: - “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, **and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word,** and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ... But whoso looketh into **the perfect law of liberty,** and continueth [therein], he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”



**NOTE:** - We are to receive with meekness the engrafted Word of God, which is able to save our souls, by being doers of the Word, and not hearers only. We will be blessed if we are doers of the perfect law of liberty. The “law of liberty” is defined in the next chapter as being the “royal law” of Ten Commandments – See James 2:8 – 12.

## **TEMPERANCE: -**

**Acts 24:24 & 25:** - “And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”


**NOTE:** - Temperance was part of Paul’s faith in Christ.

**1st Corinthians 9:24 – 27:** - “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. **And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.** I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: **But I keep under my body, and bring [it] into subjection:** lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

**NOTE:** - Paul exhorted all those who are striving to obtain the prize of the incorruptible crown to be temperate in all things. He himself brought his bodily desires into subjection.

**2nd Peter 1:4 - 7:** - “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**”

**NOTE:** - Temperance is part of Peter’s Ladder of Christian qualities.

 In **Galatians 5:23,** Paul states concerning those who are manifesting the nine fruits of the Spirit that he has just listed, “**against such there is no law.**” The law is not against such qualities; or, the law will **NOT** condemn such people who are manifesting these spiritual fruits, because they will be having the righteousness of God’s Law fulfilled in their lives.

**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. ... That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**”

Paul clearly identifies those who belong to Christ, as those who have crucified, that is, put to death the flesh with its passions and lusts. In other words, through the Spirit, they will have put to death **all** the works of the flesh.

Galatians 5:24: - “And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the \*affections and lusts.”

**NOTE**: - \* The margin has “**Or, *passions*.**”

Romans 8:13: - “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but **if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**”

☞ Far from the Holy Spirit freeing a believer in Christ, from being obedient to God's righteous Law, it is the Holy Spirit which leads the believer in Christ to have the righteousness of God's Law fulfilled in their lives!