

Scripture: Romans 8:1-17

Additional reading: Rom 3:22-24; 4:23-24; 5:9; 5:1-2; 6:13; 6:19

OPEN:

1. When you were a child, who let you off the hook when you knew you deserved to be punished for something you'd done wrong? How did you feel toward them?

DIG:

1. From 3:22-24; 4:23-24; 5:9; and 8:1-4, how would you explain the gospel to someone struggling with his or her own sense of failure to be "good enough" for God? How is "no condemnation" related to the idea of "justification" (3:24; 5:1-2)?
2. Using vv 5 - 11, make a list comparing what Paul says about living according to the sinful nature and according to the Spirit. What is the relationship of each to the Law of God?
3. Since we are not set right with God by doing good works, what is the motive for changing out lives? How do vv 13 - 14, 6:13, and 6:19 together show how we are to deal with our sinful nature? What does Paul mean by the phrase "by the Spirit" (vv 13 - 14)?
4. What does it mean to you that your are not God's slave but his child?

REFLECT:

1. In light of vs 1, how should you handle feelings of guilt and unworthiness before God?
2. What mostly occupies your time? Why? Is there anything that you wish occupied more of your time?
3. What mostly occupies your thoughts? How much harmony with your faith are your thoughts and time. What would help to put them in tune?
4. When did you first realize that you needed to turn control of your life over to the Holy Spirit? What happened?