

Romans 8:1-13
“*Learning to Walk*”

~ INTRO. ~

MANY OF YOU KNOW...

- Jodi & I have 8-grandchildren...
 - The youngest is *baby-Rydge* who is learning to walk.

I THINK IT’S...

- Fascinating to watch babies experience life for the first time.
 - Learning to use their hands...
 - Learning to respond to their name...
 - Learning to walk.

SO TOO...

- In the Christian faith...
 - There is a season where we *Learn to Walk* with God.
- And I can’t help but to think...
 - That God gets excited as we begin to grow.

~ STUDY ~

TODAY...

- We’re going to discuss some important **first-steps**.

IDEA #1 – FREEDOM THAT LASTS

(v.1) AN IMPORTANT VERSE TO MEMORIZE.

THE ENEMY OF OUR SOUL...

- Wants to make us **feel** like it’s useless to follow Christ...
 - So he discourages us with *condemnation*.

Condemnation (Grk.) *Ka-Ta-Kre-Ma*) = A damnatory sentence.

- Think about a prisoner on death row... that’s the idea.
 - But we’ve been taken off death-row.

AND...

- God wants us to know that after we have trusted in Christ...
 - *We have peace with God* (Rom. 5:1).
 - *There is no condemnation* (Rom 8:1).

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(v.2) “*made me free*”

- This phrase means: A past event with ongoing results.
 - Christ’s death is the past event.
 - The ongoing result is I’m NOT trapped in sin.

(v.3) JESUS FULFILLED THE LAW...

- And took the punishment for our sins.
 - The Bible says this (Isa. 53:4-6) NLT

(v.4) JESUS FULFILLS THIS WORK...

- “*in us*” and NOT by us.
 - (Rom 8:4) NLT

WE’VE BEEN FREED FROM:

- a) The requirements of the O.T. law.
- b) Eternal punishment at death.
- c) Being stuck in addictive OR repressive behavior.

THE ONGOING RESULT...

- Is that our character is being fashioned to that of Jesus.
 - (Phil 1:6) NLT

IDEA #2 – LEARNING THE DIFFERENCE

NOW...

- We get to some practical insights...
 - Between the Spirit & the flesh.
 - So we don’t resist... what God is doing in us.

(v.5)... To *live according to the flesh*

- What does this mean?
 - Turn to (Gal. 5:13-25) NLT

PAUL’S TEACHING BELIEVERS...

- That we’re NOT to remain in spiritually dead behaviors.

~ SPIRITUALLY DEAD BEHAVIORS ~

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- 1) **Sexual Sins** (v.19)
 - a. Adultery
 - b. Fornication (all pornographic material)
 - c. Lewdness

- 2) **Superstitious Sins** (v.20a)
 - a. Idolatry (example burning candles to saints)
 - b. Sorcery / witchcraft (*pharmakeia*: All drugs)

- 3) **Violent Sins** (v.20b)
 - a. Hatred (a disposition of continual anger)
 - b. Contentions (quick to fight)
 - c. Jealousy (impassioned violence)
 - d. Outburst (anger that results in widespread violence)

- 4) **Manipulative Sins** (v.20c)
 - a. Selfish ambition (A dissenting view trying to win favor behind the scenes, by dividing people)
 - b. Dissensions (inciting people to rebel against any type of authority)
 - c. Heresies (disagreements OR opinions that vary from sound Christian exposition)
 - d. Envy (resentful attitude / ill will / spite)

- 5) **Social Sins** (v.21)
 - a. Drunkenness (consumption of alcohol to point of danger)
 - b. Revelries / orgies (a person that is buzzed on any intoxicant, which results in being excessively loud, singing, partying, and being sexually expressive).

ALL OF THESE...

- Are labeled as deeds of the flesh.
 - They're actions & activities that destroy life...
 - It's what Jesus died to save sinners from.

THE APPLICATION... (Col. 3:5a) NLT

- “*So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.*”

HOMEWORK... read (Col. 3 & 4) NLT

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OVERVIEW...

- Of characteristics of the Christian life:

1) **Basic Christian Living** (Col. 3:5-17)

a. *Turn from bad habits:* (Col. 3:5-9)

- i. Ungoverned desires & thoughts
- ii. Filthy language
- iii. Lying

b. *Learn new habits:* (Col 3:10-17)

- i. Discover what pleases God
- ii. Be kind
- iii. Humble
- iv. Help others
- v. Stop complaining & being critical
- vi. Love other

2) **Household Order** (Col 3:18-21)

- a. Husband leads
- b. Wife follows & assists
- c. Husband loves wife
- d. Wife is NOT bitter toward husband
- e. Children at home (regardless of age) listen to parents
- f. Fathers don't antagonize your kids

3) **Employer & Employee Order** (Col. 3:22 – 4:1)

- a. Be a good employee & don't fake it!
- b. Do a good job
- c. The Lord will reward you
- d. If you do wrong, it's going to catch up with you
- e. Bosses pay a fair wage & take care of your employees

4) **Spiritual Life** (Col. 4:2-6)

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- a. Faithfully pray & give thanks
- b. Live your life wisely & not recklessly
- c. Make good use of your time
- d. Let your conversations be filled with grace & goodness

~ IN CLOSING ~

TODAYS MESSAGE WAS TITLED: *“Learning to Walk”*.

THE TOPICS...

- Are NOT a list of does & don't.
 - They're just to help us see the difference...
 - Between the old life & the new life (flesh & Spirit).

(Rom 8:12-13) NKJV

- God is teaching us how to walk with Him.

~ COMMUNION ~