

## How God Condemned Sin In The Flesh

Romans 8:3

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## The Weakness Of The Law (8:3)

Romans 7 – 8

Three laws are discussed in Romans 7–8.

1. There is the law of Moses.
2. The law of sin and death.
3. The law of the Spirit (i.e., the gospel of Christ).

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## The Weakness Of The Law (8:3)

Romans 7:5 Jews were *"in the flesh."* i.e. indulged the desires and passions of the flesh. – Death.

Romans 7:12 Law of Moses: "Holy, Righteous, Good" (cf. 7:7).

Romans 7:13 Law exposed & condemned man's deeds as *"exceeding sinful."*

*Romans 7:24 "Wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me out of the body of this death?"*

Deliverance from the condemnation of the law is in Christ. Romans 7:6; 8:1–2

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## The Weakness Of The Law (8:3)

The law was *"weak through the flesh"* ONLY in the sense that after making men conscious of the exceeding sinfulness of their sins in the flesh and pronouncing judgment upon their sins, it could not offer perfect forgiveness and victory over sin and death.

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## The Weakness Of The Law (8:3)

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

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## Three Things Necessary

1. Jesus Christ came *"in the likeness of sinful flesh."* John 1:14; 1 John 4:1; Philipians 2:5
2. God sent his Son to be the perfect sacrifice for sin. Hebrews 10:5–10
3. God's Son thoroughly condemned and defeated sin while living in the flesh, leaving sin no quarter, no excuse, no justification, no advantage, and no victory. **Therefore, those who are in Christ Jesus obtain the "righteousness" revealed in the law through the gospel of Jesus Christ. cf. Romans 1:16–17**

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## Human Flesh: The Scene of Sin's Defeat

- ▶ The life of Jesus in a human body proves that **our sins are the result of our own choice, the result of our own choice alone, and in no sense are necessitated by the body itself.** cf. Hebrews 4:15
- ▶ NOTE: God prepared neither Jesus nor us a body which compels sin.
- ▶ NOTE: Fleshly desires lead to sin only when the mind, or heart, purposes to gratify the flesh in an unlawful way. cf. Romans 6:16–17

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## Human Flesh: The Scene of Sin's Defeat

- “Jesus, by his sinless life, lived in the flesh, as the son of man, resisted, conquered, condemned, sentenced and destroyed the power of sin in the flesh” (J.W. McGarvey and Phillip Y. Pendleton: Thessalonians, Corinthians, Galatians and Romans).
- “Condemned the sin of men and the condemnation took place in the flesh of Jesus” (A.T. Robertson: Word Pictures in the New Testament).

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## Human Flesh: The Scene of Sin's Defeat

“God’s condemnation of sin through his Son deposed sin from its dominion, a thing impossible to the law, which could pronounce judgment and inflict penalty, but not dethrone. Christ’s holy character was a condemnation of unholiness” (Vincent; Word Studies in the New Testament).

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## Human Flesh: The Scene of Sin's Defeat

NOTE: The perfect life that Jesus lived and which was essential to his perfect sacrifice defeated every claim which sin could make upon mankind. cf. Hebrews 2:14ff

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## His Sinless Life In The Flesh

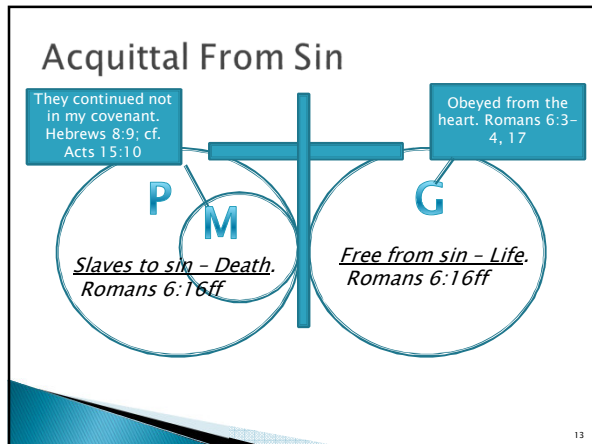
- ▶ Sin is not necessary.
  - Christ came “*in the likeness of sinful flesh*” in that he shared man’s liability to sin, but also lived so as to prove that sin is not inevitable in man’s nature!
  - Man is responsible for his sin, not God.
    - The **life of Christ** convicts man as fully responsible and the **death of Christ** provides merciful pardon from the guilt.

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## Acquittal From Sin

- ▶ Once the Law was violated, it condemned. Romans 7:10; cf. Galatians 3:10–11
- ▶ Did not make provision for justification. Galatians 3:21
- ▶ NOTE: Expresses man’s need for the gospel. Romans 1:16–17

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## Acquittal From Sin

*Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."*

NOTE: No reason to be condemned.

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## Sin Condemned, Forgiven & Defeated

- ▶ *Romans 8:12-14 "So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh: for if ye live after the flesh, ye must die; but if by the Spirit ye put to death the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."*

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## Sin Condemned, Forgiven & Defeated

- ▶ We need to preach with sincerity and fervor that this is the only solution that the world will ever have.
- ▶ We do not help either sinners or Christians by suggesting that their sins were necessary, unavoidable, and inevitable.
- ▶ Some say, "Impossible To Keep The Law."

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## Conclusion:

Two things:

1. Christ lives so as to show that sin is not necessary to the nature of man.
2. He died to provide a perfect sacrifice for the sins of man, he in every sense crushed and destroyed the dominion of sin over us.  
Hebrews 2:14-15

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