

The confident Christian

The Christian's freedom: death demanded, prisoners liberated

Romans 7:21–8:4

Introduction

1. The law of sin and death—the ball and chain of the Christian's flesh

- change from past to present tense from v13–14
- a non-Christian could not say v22 (see 8:7)
- chapter 2 describes the 'pious Jew' and the pious Jew of chapter 2 simply does not speak as we find in 7:14–25
- 6:7 is key. We are 'justified' from sin, but sin is not eradicated

Cranfield technical commentary: 'the farther people advance in the Christian life, and the more mature their discipleship, the clearer becomes their perception of the heights to which God calls them, and the more painfully sharp their consciousness of the distance between what they out, and want, to be, and what they are'

2. The law of the Spirit of life—the bunker-busting freedom (justification) of the Spirit of life

- Weakened by the flesh
- Likeness of sinful flesh
- For sin
- Condemned sin in the flesh
- Righteous requirements of the law

To 'walk' in the Spirit is not a 'doing' thing in this instance, it is a 'being' thing. To walk in the Spirit is to be a justified person.

Conclusion

Questions for discussion and reflection:

- how does what Paul teaches in these verses strengthen your confidence as a Christian?
- How does it boost your confidence in the Gospel itself?