

# Completed

THE FULL PICTURE OF GOD IN  
**ROMANS**

6

## YES, NO & MAYBE

1. This past week, I sinned more than most of the people in this room.

2. I'm more spiritual than I am religious.

3. Until Jesus comes again, I am a slave to sin and death.

4. It truly is inevitable, you will be possessed by a spirit at some time in your life.

5. Out of the 3 members of the Godhead, it was the Holy Spirit who caused us to be adopted as God's children.

## DIG DEEPER

⌚ What do you think most people mean when they say, "I'm a spiritual person"?

### READ: Romans 8:1-13 (NIV)

Therefore, **there is now no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a **sin offering**. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who **live in accordance with the Spirit** have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but **the mind governed by the Spirit** is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

⌚ Why do you think it is so difficult for us to avoid sinning?

▲ (Vs. 1) "**There is now no condemnation**" - F. F. Bruce points out that condemnation (*katakrima*) probably should more accurately be thought of as "penal servitude," i.e., the results of condemnation (Bruce, p. 151). Condemnation in a legal sense is the opposite of justification, but Paul is not saying here that we are justified. He is in a point in his argument where he is discussing the freedom that comes from being in Christ Jesus. Therefore, if we have been set free from the law of sin and death, then we no longer are slaves to sin and death (see Rom. 6:15-23). We no longer have any term of punishment or servitude to fulfill as a result of being declared "guilty". Fittingly, Eugene Peterson (The Message) calls condemnation "a continuous, low-lying black cloud" which Paul says no longer hangs over us.

↓ (Vs. 3) **A sin offering** - (*peri hamartias*). The language has Old Testament sacrificial associations. A sin offering is an offering for "sins of ignorance," sins that the Israelite did not wish to commit, which is precisely the problem described in 7:7-25. The crisis of 7:7 is that people delight in the law of God, but find themselves unable



## DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

to do it. Paul says that Jesus resolves that problem. Law fulfillment is not something done by followers of Jesus, Jew or Gentile, but by the faithfulness of Jesus.

• What does it tell you about God that He sent His own Son to fulfill the Law instead of insisting that we do it ourselves?

¶ (Vs. 5-13) **Living with & by the Spirit** - The words "spiritually minded" are to *phronēma tou pneumatos* (το φρονημα του πνευματος), literally, "the mind possessed by the Spirit," thus a mind controlled or dominated by the Holy Spirit. That person possesses the life that God is, and peace, the Greek word for peace in its verb form meaning "to bind together that which has been separated," thus, the believing sinner, bound together with God and His life after having been separated by sin.

• What does it say about God that He wants to bring you peace with Him by renovating your mind and removing your temptations for you? Does this mean that even if we tried, we can't follow His Law on our own?

### READ: Romans 8:14-17 (NIV)

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the **children of God**. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the **Spirit you received brought about your adoption** to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The **Spirit himself testifies** with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

▲ (Vs. 15, ) **"Adoption to sonship"** - As an adoption record in a court of law receives a stamp, seal, or signature verifying its authenticity, and validating the adoptee's rights from that day forward, so the believer is given a seal by God. The Holy Spirit is given to believers to be a "deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (2 Cor. 1:22). "Having believed," Paul says, we were "marked in [Christ] with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit" (Eph. 1:13). In Romans Paul says that the Holy Spirit plays a unique role, testifying with the spirit of the believer that we are God's children. By the presence and power of the Spirit, we call out to God in a personal way—Abba, Father.

Abba, or "daddy," represents the familiar cry of the heart from one who knows who the father is. Because it is the Spirit of God who is given to believers, the heart of the child is linked with the heart of the Father in permanent intimacy.

• What does it tell you about God that at a time when we prove that we cannot be faithful to God's Law on our own, that He would send His only Son to pay the price for us, and to send His Holy Spirit as a deposit to guarantee that we are His children forever and always?

## NOTES:

### My Prayers This week:

1. How am I letting the Holy Spirit possess me at all times?
2. What do I need to rewrite in my mind concerning Christ's payment for my sins?
3. What new aspect of God's character do I understand better this week?