

Paul Mayhugh
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Living in the Peace of God

Main Scripture: Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Rom. 8:1

1. Christians are no longer guilty of sin.
2. Christians should not live with guilt feelings.

Simple Outline:

- A. Creation of Mankind
- B. Fall of Mankind
- C. Justification of Believers
- D. Sanctification of Believers

Emmanuel! Shalom!

(See backside of handout for the extensive outline.)

Extensive Outline:

A. Creation of Mankind

1. Man was created without sin and enjoyed a guiltless and peaceful existence prior to sin. (Gen. 1-3; 2:25)
2. Mankind has a conscience knowing good and bad, which is created in the likeness of God. (Gen. 1:26)

B. Fall of Mankind

1. Sin brought universal condemnation to mankind as an enemy of God. (Rom. 3:23, 26)
2. Sin destroyed man's inner sense of peace. (Rom. 5:10)

C. Justification of Believers

1. God judged Jesus Christ as mankind's substitute. The forensic (legal) nature of God's holiness and righteous standard were fully satisfied in the vicarious (substitutionary) death of His son, Jesus Christ. (1 Pet. 3:18)
2. When a believer is declared righteous, his/her penalty of sin which is death, is forgiven and the righteousness of Christ is credited to his/her account/name (Gen. 15:6).
3. Every born again believer's penalty has been paid for, exonerated, and therefore stands forevermore not guilty in God's eyes (Romans 8:1).
4. Each believer therefore has peace with God (Romans 5:1).

D. Sanctification of Believers

Although all believers are justified, all believers still need the process of progressive sanctification to occur throughout their earthly lives. Born again people will experience "guilt feelings" after they believe in Jesus.

1. Believers need to reckon that Jesus has already paid for the guilt of their sin. Each believer is already guiltless before God and because of **justification** has no need or grounds to experience any guilt feelings.
2. Believers need to realize that this kind of negative feeling now deals with the issue of **sanctification** and his/her personal relationship with God, e.g. fellowship with God.

These negative feelings of the believer relate to **sanctification** (experiencing personal relationship with God) may be into divided into two kinds:

- a. genuine blame/guilt feelings with regard to the Holy Spirit;
 - 1) grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30)
 - 2) quenching the Holy Spirit (1 Thes. 5:19)
- b. false feelings of blame/guilt –
 - 1) Self imposed guilt due to a lack of knowledge and belief in the Word
 - 2) Others' condemnation (Mat. 5:11; 1 Pet. 3:16)
 - 3) Demonic induced guilt (Rev. 12:10)

Each believer needs to daily experience the peace of God (Phil. 4:7; Col. 3:15).