

## CONDEMNATION - VICTORY OR DEFEAT?

### Part One

CONDEMNATION is a word that we are all acquainted with and often have difficulty defining although the symptoms manifests itself in very familiar ways. One dictionary defines condemnation as: an expression of strong disapproval; pronouncing as wrong or morally culpable; an appeal to some supernatural power to inflict evil on some individual or group; the condition of being strongly disapproved of.

However it is used, condemnation has devastating effects on people if allowed to rule and remain in their lives. Condemnation brings feelings of oppression and bondage. They feel extremely burdened and struggle under its weight. Nagging guilt accompanies condemnation and robs people of their joy, peace and confidence in Christ. The Christian does not have to labor under the bondage of condemnation, but rather can and should, stand in God's truth!

### THE TRUTH OF GOD:

Romans 5:18-19 (NKJV) says, "Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."

Mankind was subjected to the righteous condemnation of God (Romans 1:18) and the only exceptions are those who have surrendered to Christ: John 3: 18-19 (NKJV) reads, "He who believes in Him is NOT CONDEMNED; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten of God. And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Good news! Condemnation is not for the Christian; absolutely not! Romans 8:1 –"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." We are not under the law but under grace. Christ fulfilled the demands of the law through His sacrificial death. He satisfied God's justice.

We are justified and made righteous in Christ (Romans 8:33-34). We have peace with God (Romans 5:1). And we are made righteous in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Satan is the greatest source of condemnation. (Rev. 12: 10 KJV) calls him "*the accuser of our brethren.*" He delights in constantly badgering Christians with accusations, criticism and tries to tear down their self- confidence. He sends "fiery darts" against their minds and brings them into mental bondage. He tries to destroy their testimony, as it stands as an open judgment against him.

We often give Satan the day off and become our own worst enemy by inflicting self-condemnation, and Satan claps his hands in glee when we do this. Some people are too hard on themselves. They have little patience or tolerance for their shortcomings and imperfections. They live for the affirmation from other people and torment themselves with self-condemnation when they don't "*measure up*" to their expectations. The sad part is that although God no longer condemns us, many live their lives in a perpetual state of self-condemnation.

### **HOW DOES CODEMNATION ENTER OUR LIVES?**

Many people suffer from a low self-esteem that often is a result of past childhood traumas and abuse. Subjected as a child to an overbearing, critical, or judgmental environment, will most generally produce a lack of acceptance and self-worth and they grow into adulthood still seeking for approval. They develop a poor self-esteem and negative attitudes as to who they are and their role in life. It is impossible for them to believe that they are lovable. It is hard to accept that God truly loves and accepts them. Instead they feel that He disapproves of them and that He is impossible to please. Big fat lies from the Father of lies, Satan.

These lies can distort our concept, our view, of the way God relates to us. We don't see God as a loving Father, but as a stern, judge who is ready to "lower the boom" on us at any time. We live in constant dread of that "lightning bolt" zig-zagging from the heaven to earth and finding us as its target. These negative attitudes set us up for condemnation and allows Satan open doors to torment us.

Satan comes with his lies when we fail and is only too willing to take advantage of us as he will ridicule, criticize, and belittle us in order to produce a spirit of defeat. Proverbs 24:16 says, "For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again..." Falling is not fatal, except to the wicked. Don't listen to the lies of the enemy and don't fall into the trap of responding to your weaknesses, and inadequacies by condemnation yourself. Don't partner with Satan in beating yourself up. I believe that deeply grieves the heart of the Father. Get up, enlist God's help and try again.

If a person has not fully accepted God's cleansing and forgiveness from the memories of sins in the past that they committed before they were saved, and to forget the mistakes of years past, they will find it difficult to forgive themselves, and to walk in victory. And flowing in like a flood comes self-condemnation to strike devastating blows at our worth—our value—our self-image.

There is a solution to the problem of condemnation—GOD. It is the assurances through the Word of God that He is greater than any problems or lies we may encounter. He is able and will supply the guidance and insight to set us free in spite of the lies of the enemy and past experiences. If we turn to God and trust him rather than the faulty counsel of our own hearts, release will come—we will be liberated