

## The 7 Secrets to Living For Christ

The secret to living the Christian life and above the guilt and shame that legalism imposes is revealed in Romans 8. You must study them for yourself and let the Lord enrich your faith and strengthen your resolve to follow our Lord wherever the call of God leads you. It has been said, "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."

Before: The pious are loved by God but Are the pious loved by God because they are pious or are they pious because they are loved by God? This discussion came up in Euthyphro, at Socrates trial in Plato's *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. Our love is a love only for those who love us. If so, love is selfish. But God's agape loves us into loving Him. Rom 13:10 "Love is the fulfillment of the Law."

1. :1-4 Our judgment has been resolved in Jesus' substitutionary death. This is total, immediate [upon salvation] and complete. **Verse 1** "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus"
2. :5-14 Be spiritually minded. **Verse 6**: "to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
  1. **Romans 13:14** " put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh"
  2. **Ps 1:2** meditate [talk, meditate, study] day & night. Read your Bible.
  3. *life & peace* = happy. Don't follow the counsel or advice of the unfaithful/rebellious. Don't live in sin. Don't associate or hang out with undisciplined "all for self" who mock God's Truth. But if you find delights in God's Word, it will be always on your heart and lips.
3. :15-17 Develop a prayer life. **Verse 15**: For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
  1. **Mt 6:9, 11**: Our Father...Give us this day our daily bread. Talk with Him often about everything. Our shield of faith is our trust in Him.
4. :18-25 Value your salvation above your circumstances. *Is it worth it?! Verse 18*: I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
  1. **2 Corinthians 4:18** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.
    1. **John 5:23** That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which hath sent him.
      1. Timao - to fix the value or price of.
      2. Hebrew word is **weight**. In economics they talk of a fundamentally weighted index. Our lives are for God worth it as an investment in the Gospel?

5. :26-27 Realize you are never alone. **Verse 26:** the Spirit itself makes intercession for us
  1. **Hebrews 13:5** Be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
  2. **Ezekiel 48:35** Jehovah-SHAMAH. **Ezekiel 37:27-28** I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore. We have a personal Creator who loves us always by our side!
  3. **Matthew 28:20** I am with you **always**, even unto the end. **Amen**
  
6. Realize that the Christian life is a process not a microwaved instant result. **Verse 29:** predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son.
  1. **2 Corinthians 3:18** changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. *Your story is not completed yet.*
  
7. :31-39 Value hope! Hope in the Lord. **Verse 37:** In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
  1. **Hebrews 11:1** It is why we have faith or trust in Him
  2. **Isaiah 30:15** In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence [trust] shall be your strength.
  3. **Isaiah 32:17** And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.