



**Learn to Celebrate Without Condemnation
(Why I Don't Feel Bad About Celebrating)**

December 19, 2021

One of the most effective ways the enemy keeps you from becoming a powerful champion for the kingdom of God is to turn you against yourself.
(Charles Stanley: Confront the Lies, Conquer with Truth)

Text: Romans 8:1-2

8 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.

Condemnation Defined: To give judgment against

Personal Summary: I choose to celebrate Christmas **without condemnation**. I embrace all its traditions and hyperbolic symbols in context. I choose to give gifts and celebrate Christ, family, friends, and the future.

I. Two Ways to View Condemnation

1. You can view condemnation as something in your past (Romans 8:1)

- 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. (NIV)

2. You can view condemnation as something you were freed from “justified” (Romans 5:1-2)

- Therefore, since **we have been justified through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

II. Another Way to Define Condemnation

- An act of judgment, in which **someone rebukes and denounces the actions and motivations of others**. Scripture stresses the righteousness and trustworthiness of divine condemnation but notes how human judgments are often tainted and distorted by sin. (Dictionary of Bible Themes)

III. Two Observations About Guilt and Condemnation

1. Legitimate guilt comes from **violating God's standards**
2. False guilt comes from **wrong thinking**



Closing:

IV. Questions People Ask During Christmas That Are Laced With Guilt and Condemnation

1. Are you leaving Christ out of Christmas when you give gifts?
2. Are you worshipping an idol when you talk about Santa Claus?
3. Are you free to choose special dates to honor Christ? (Yes)

Note: Paul's Thoughts About Celebrating Various Days and Seasons Without Guilt

- **If you live Romans 12:1** everyday, why would God struggle with a day of gift giving, dancing, and community celebration. All throughout, Christmas He is given honorable mention.
- **Romans 14:5** says, "One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind."

Next Time:

- The **Annual Question for 2022** focuses on one key word "**Truth.**" What is the truth you keep running from that you need to accept and implement?
- **My Main Advice for 2022:** Tell yourself the truth!