

Title: J Plus S Equals F - Romans 8 1-8

Read:

¹⁻²With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death. ³⁻⁴God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that. The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us. ⁵⁻⁸Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

Think:

He keeps on banging on about this doesn't he? Do you think maybe it's important? Do you think maybe God wants us to understand that Jesus has done the job and any negative feelings we have about what we have done in the past is wrong. In another translation of this passage it says "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ." That's pretty clear as well. So let's be clear about this. God thinks that your mates are great; God thinks that your family is great and God thinks that you are great. Any nagging voice in your head that makes you feel anything less than a privileged child of God is a lie. It's a simple formula Jesus plus you saying sorry equal's forgiveness. So Jesus dies for you and me and the selfish we did and do. When we gave our lives to Jesus that became part of our very being. As things come to mind that we have done that we are not proud of, we simply say sorry and ask for forgiveness. That's it, it is done. God has now separated us from that sin by a million miles. If we get nagging voices saying things like "you can't go to Heaven because you did this or you did that" it's rubbish, it's a lie. Right I'm glad we got that clear, can we move on now?

Pray:

Father thank you that you have separated the rubbish I have done in the past as far as the east is from the west. Please lord help me to remember that when those thoughts come into my mind. Amen.

Action:

Who are you praying will come to know Jesus? Do you have five people you are praying for. Go on pray for them now. Bye.