

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, November 5, 2017**

**What God Has Done With Your Sin  
Week 1 in the series “Engaged”  
A Study of Romans 8:1-4**

**[www.Hillcrest.Church](http://www.Hillcrest.Church)**



Some children grow up with a parent who's hardly around, and emotionally uninvolved when around. What impact do you think that may have on the child? The child's self-image? The child's trust in others?

In Romans 8, we discover a God who is deeply engaged with our lives. Romans 8 can be broken into four sections:

Verses 1-4: What God has done for us in the *past*

Verses 5-17: What God is doing for us in the *present*

Verses 18-27: What God will do for us in the *future*

Verses 28-38: Doxology

Today we're focusing on Romans 8:1-4. Have someone read these verses to the group.

Pastor Tom said there are three poor ways to respond to our moral failure, and one right way.

**ONE: D \_\_\_\_\_**

Denial doesn't just happen when we refuse to admit we've done something wrong. Explain how the following are different forms of denial:

- ❖ "I only did it a few times: It's not who I really am"
- ❖ "It's not like I've got bodies buried in my back yard"
- ❖ "I'm only human"
- ❖ "Surely all the good things I do ought to count for something"
- ❖ Other denials: " \_\_\_\_\_ "

**TWO: B \_\_\_\_\_-SHIFTING**

This past week, in the wake of the accusations against Harvey Weinstein, even more celebrities have been accused of sexual harassment. How have some of the initial responses been a form of blame-shifting?

Is blame-shifting partly true?

Why isn't blame-shifting completely true?

**THREE: D \_\_\_\_\_**

*And in my best behavior  
I am really just like him  
Look beneath the floor boards  
For the secrets I have hid*

Conclusion to Sufjan Stevens' song "John Wayne Gacy"

When denial and blame-shifting no longer work, we can fall into despair. The following are some consequences we face from moral failure. Briefly describe each one:

- ❖ Shame around others
- ❖ Self-hatred
- ❖ Withdrawal from God (Why would God want someone like me around?)
- ❖ Fear of eternal judgment
- ❖ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**T \_\_\_\_\_ IN GOD'S PROVISION**

What does Paul mean by "the law" and "the flesh" in verse 3? How does "the flesh" weaken the ability of the "the law" to make us better people?

Why does Paul describe Jesus' death as a "sin offering" in verse 3?

What does it mean to say a Christian is someone who is "in Christ Jesus" in verse 1?

Put your name in the blank: “There is now no condemnation for \_\_\_\_\_, who is in Christ Jesus.” Pastor Tom said that if you do this, at least three changes will start taking place:

**First: It impacts how you deal with yourself.**

The ancient philosophers said the first step to real change is, “Know thyself.” How does God’s acceptance free you to examine yourself with brutal honesty?

**Second: It impacts how you deal with others.**

If God’s acceptance of me isn’t based on my performance but his grace, I no longer have to compare myself to others to feel better about myself. How can this help my relationships?

**Third: It impacts how you deal with God.**

“The effectiveness of our worship services isn’t dependent on the quality of the music on stage but the clarity of the gospel in your heart.” Do you agree? Why or why not?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests