

Concerning Condemnation

George Fox

He that believes on Christ in his light, which is the life in him, is not condemned; but he that believes not in the light, as Christ commands, is condemned already. And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. And every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.' John 3:19-20.

Now here you may see, this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and every one that does evil hates the light, and loves darkness rather than light, whose deeds are evil. And again Christ said, 'He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is past from death to life.' John 5:24. 'And he that believes not the son of God shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him, and he is condemned already. But whosoever believes in the son of God, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.' John 3:16-18,36. So it is by believing in the light, which is the life in Christ, that people come out of condemnation to life. And 'as by the offence or disobedience of one, namely, Adam, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one, namely, Christ, the free gift came upon all men to justification of life.' Rom 5:18. Now if you do not believe in Christ, as he has commanded, in his light, which is the life in him, 'you shall not see life' without his light; and Christ tells you that you are 'condemned already that do not believe in him,' and his light, 'and the wrath of God abides upon you.'

And the apostle Paul said, 'There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk after the flesh, but after the spirit,' Rom 3:1; that is, not after the motions of the flesh, but after the motions of the spirit of God. These are they which believe in the light, which is the life in Christ, and are grafted into him. And the apostle calls the old covenant, or old testament, 'a ministration of condemnation, though it was glorious in its time;' but the ministration of righteousness in the new covenant, and new testament, exceeds it in glory; and the glory of the first testament is done away, and abolished by Christ, as in 2 Cor 3:9.

Now in the first testament it was the command of God, 'that they should not forswear themselves, but perform their oaths to the Lord,' as in Mat 5:33-34. But Christ in his new testament and new covenant, said, 'I say unto you swear not at

all;' and this doctrine he preached to his disciples, and to the Jews that had commanded oaths and swearing. And the apostle James, who directed his epistle to the twelve tribes, and he had been a Jew and a professor of the old testament and old covenant, and now was converted and a believer in Christ Jesus, and a preacher of the new covenant and new testament, according to Christ's doctrine; and he said, 'But above all things my brethren swear not; neither by heaven, nor by earth, neither by any other oath; but let your yes, be yes, and your no, no, lest you fall into condemnation.' James 5:12.

Now here according to James's doctrine, those who swear, or take any oath, fall into condemnation; and go out of the doctrine of Christ and the apostles in the new testament and new covenant; and Christ said unto the Jews, 'If you had known what this means, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless.' Mat 12:7. And James said to the Jews, 'You have condemned and killed the just, and he does not resist you.' This James speaks to the Jews, that 'had lived in pleasure upon the earth, and been wanton, and had nourished their hearts as in the day of slaughter.' James 5:5-6. But such ungodly men are for condemnation, as in Jude 4. And as Solomon said, 'A man of wicked devices will the Lord condemn; and he that justifies the wicked, and he that condemns the just, even they both are an abomination to the Lord.' Pro 12:2,17:15. And Christ Jesus said, in Mat 12:36. 'I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment; for by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.' Are not all here to have a care, and to be watchful against idle words, and bad words, lest they are condemned; but as the apostle said, 'there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit;' that is, not after the fleshly ways, words, nor works. And then, as the apostle said, 'who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies, who is he that condemns?' Rom 8:1,33,34. So you may see here, who are condemned, and who are justified; and who enter into the kingdom of God, and into the heavenly Jerusalem, and who not.

George Fox