

Summary of Group Discussion - Week 3

1. Romans 8:1-8:17

- **Paragraph-by-paragraph summary**
 - (1) Verses 1-4 - We are not condemned by the law, because Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the law. The Spirit of life has set us free from the law of sin and death. ("What")
 - (2) Verses 5-8 - The mind of a sinful man does not please God and leads to death, whereas the mind of a righteous man follows the desires of God's Spirit and that leads to life. ("Why")
 - (3) Verses 9-11 - Jesus was raised from the dead by God's Spirit, so if this Spirit lives in you, your body as well as your spirit will also live. ("How")
 - (4) Verses 12-17 - Those who live according to God's spirit are treated in the same way as his Son Jesus, and are co-heirs with Him, therefore we live according to that Spirit through family allegiance rather than obligation to the law. ("Exhortation")
- **Reordering arguments?**

Might start with point 4, then 1, 2, 3. Sonship point in last argument was key. Could make the points in the same order if you wanted to. This might be an argument against Gnosticism--there is no distinction between body and Spirit, both will be redeemed.

2. Clues in the text for translation of James 1:9

- **Humble circumstances** - situation
Tapeinos - Greek word - used in secular context - experience of humiliation
'Withering of the plant', don't worry about your circumstances
Context - trials (?)
Probably best translation - about situation - lexicon confirms this.
- **Poor** - financial state
Contrast of 'rich' person (verse 10)
- **Lowly** - hierarchy - where do they fit in society
'Exaltation and humiliation' symmetry - supports 'humble' reading
Symmetry - lowly or poor state v. pride (9)

3. Range of meaning of 'agape', possible traps in interpreting

- **Large overlap of meaning between agape, phileo, English 'love'**
Loving God, loving wife, loving evil things -- all use the same word agape
Looked up 'love feasts' - meal taken together
- **Possible traps**
Semantic anachronism - Lots of cultural baggage with modern word love.
Totality transfer - does modern English equate to ancient word love?
Technical meaning - 'God's love' - not necessarily
Over-specifying - a broad concept