

DISARMING THE ACCUSER

A PRACTICAL, BIBLICAL STUDY GUIDE
TO OVERCOMING CONDEMNATION

CHIDO GIDEON

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hello!

Thank you for downloading this short material.

My name is Chido Gideon. I am happily married to Vanessa and we have a beautiful daughter.

I have a background in project management within the financial services industry. I now serve as a Pastor at Relentless Church London.

I have made it my life's work to help others find practical application of biblical principles in our daily lives. Primarily as it pertains to faith, leadership and relationship. That's what this work is about.

I hope you find it helpful. I pray you find something in this material that adds value to your life.

Every blessing

Chido Gideon

INTRODUCTION

The quality of our relationship with God and with others is determined by the way we see our self. The enemy uses accusations and condemnation to distort our view of ourselves before a Holy, all powerful God and before other human beings.

When a person doesn't see themselves right, they can't really be all they were meant to be. The good news is that God has already put the appropriate strategy in place to overcome the works of the enemy, especially in this area of accusations and condemnation

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) says

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

I pray that as you go through this study, you will never be burdened again by the yoke of slavery that accusations and condemnations bring.

What are Accusations & Condemnation?

ACCUSATIONS

The concise Oxford English Dictionary defines accusations as ***a charge or claim that someone has done something illegal or wrong.***

The bible, in the book of **Revelation 12:10** calls Satan, the accuser of the brethren. The job of the accuser is to bring a charge or a claim that the brethren have done something illegal or wrong. The latter part of that scripture says that the devil does this day and night!

Primarily, the devil looks to constantly bring accusations that have to do with a violation of the laws of God as outlined in His Word. The devil really knows God laws and he makes it his business to point out how you have violated them at any

point in time. In the book of Zechariah 3 and John 8, you will find 2 examples of the devil at work as described above.

The enemy does not only accuse us in relation to the laws of God as outlined in God's Word. If there is an established standard for anything, in society, in relationships, in your career, the devil will not hesitate to accuse you of breaking those standards. He works DAY AND NIGHT to highlight how you are not capable of meeting those standards.

These accusations sound something like this: You haven't prayed enough. You're not reading enough of the bible. You're too tall. You're too short. You're a Christian, you're not supposed to go there, eat this, wear that. Your skin colour is not right for that industry. That's a sin. This is a sin. At any point in time, you will find some standard, somewhere that you have violated or fallen short of. And it isn't the job of the enemy to point them out to you, day and night!

Sometimes he even employs people to join him in what I like to call "the ministry of devil affairs". We can all think of one or two people who always have something to say about someone who is not doing what they should be doing. Whilst we all need people in our lives who hold us accountable to high standards, we all instinctively reject people who only ever point out how you have missed some standards! Regrettably, sometimes those of us who are Christians who should know better avail ourselves to the enemy to be used in this way.

Satan will even go as far as tempting you to break the law so that he can turn around and accuse you of being a law breaker. The temptation of Jesus (Luke 4) was all an attempt by Satan to get Jesus to break a law of God, so that He can turn around and accuse Him of breaking the law. The enemy is totally committed to accusations!

Group Discussion: *Before you read any further, why do you think the enemy majors on bringing accusations against people? Write down a list with what you think he is trying to achieve. As you read on, compare this*

Personal Reflection: *Make a list of the different types of accusations that the enemy brings to you. Try not to be generic. Try to be very specific*

Have you ever had a conversation with someone where they said you did something wrong, and for the next few days, you couldn't concentrate on anything else, but what they said? That's what the accusations of the devil does with accusations, it consumes your mind and life with thoughts of your shortcomings. It is impossible to live a full, whole life if you are preoccupied with your shortcomings.

The enemy doesn't want you living a full life, so he invests in schemes to keep you preoccupied with your shortcomings. In fact that word accuser in **Revelation 12:10** can also be translated as prosecutor! The devil is the prosecutor of the brethren. His job is to highlight where you have violated a particular law or standard, and the purpose of His job is to lead you to **condemnation**.

CONDEMNATION

Condemnation is the sentence that is passed on you after accusations have been investigated and you have been found guilty.

The job of the enemy is to find some law, some standard that you haven't met, accuse you of falling short and condemn you in one way or another!

Let's use a natural example; if a person is caught stealing, the prosecutor presses charges against them because they have violated the laws of the land pertaining to stealing.

A good prosecutor often looks to state clearly all the different ways that the accused has broken the law with the intention of getting the judge (the only person qualified and authorised to condemn) to pass a sentence on the accused. This is exactly what Satan does, he is always watching to see how you trip up, and his goal is to get the judge (God) to condemn you.

The thing about condemnation is that it brings about limitations. Whenever a person, accused of breaking a law is found guilty and condemned, that sentence often involved the imposition of a limitation of some sort. Common limitations in most legal systems around the world, include incarceration, house arrest, restraining orders etc...all of these impose a limitation of some sort! This is really what the enemy wants to do in your life, he wants to limit you in EVERY way.

In **John 8** a woman is caught in the very act of adultery. The people who caught her in the very act (probably high ranking officials in the ministry of devil affairs), waited until she broke the law before they caught her. She was then **accused** of breaking the law and **condemned** to death. This woman perhaps had dreams of building a business or a social enterprise, getting married, having children, building a life. However she broke the law, as a result of which death, which is the greatest limitation that could be imposed on any living being was imposed on her.

This is the plan of the enemy, he will accuse you of breaking a law, with a view to get God to condemn you. In fact in the absence of condemnation from God, He will get your heart to condemn you! In **1 John 3:20** the bible talks about our hearts condemning us. Some of the largest sentences of condemnation I have walked around with for years were self-imposed! The enemy accuses us of breaking a standard, we personally investigate those accusations ourselves and pass the sentence on ourselves!

Before I started preaching every week, I used to listen to various preachers talk about how long they pray for. That really inspired me because I could see results in them that can only be a product of a close communion with God. I began to use that standard as the standard of prayer I needed to achieve in order to be used by God.

I am grateful to God for sending people into my life who provoke me to a greater depth of intimacy with God. But I found that in my life, the enemy did what he does best, he perverted that good thing. This standard became a standard that the enemy used to accuse me of falling short of nearly almost every week!

Every time I investigate the accusation that I haven't prayed long enough, I often find the accusation to be true! Of course I pray before I preach, but I never feel like I've prayed enough. As a result of which, on many occasions I excluded myself from being used by God in certain ways and to certain degrees.

I found that in my thoughts and expectations my heart condemned me, by thinking that God might use me to speak Words, but if I laid hands on anyone, they wouldn't be healed. He might use me to bring exegete a text, but He certainly won't use me to bring a Word of knowledge, because I certainly haven't prayed enough.

Whenever we exclude ourselves from achieving something significant in our lives because of a shortcoming we have, it is usually because we have been accused of falling short, we have investigated those accusations and found them to be true. Therefore we conclude that there is justification to exclude ourselves from certain promises of God. We conclude that there is justification for condemnation. We conclude that we need to be punished.

Many times we even punish ourselves! Have you ever done something you know God did not want you to do, and then afterwards stayed away from praying or even from church because you feel unworthy? I have. That was mild way of punishing yourself.

The plan of the enemy is to use your shortcomings against you. He uses them as a weapon to bring you to a place of CONDEMNATION, through ACCUSATIONS.

Group Discussions: *What kinds of CONDEMNATION have been imposed on God's people either by the church or by the world? What was the accusation? What was the condemnation?*

Personal Reflection: *What kinds of condemnation have been imposed on you because of the accusations you identified in the **DISCUSSIONS & PERSONAL REFLECTIONS 1***

FURTHER STUDY

John 8:1-11, Zechariah 3

Can you identify the following people in the above scriptures:

1. The Accused
2. The accuser
3. Condemnation
4. The Judge
5. The law or standard that was violated

HOW JESUS DISARMED THE ACCUSER

The power to live a life without the limitations that come through accusations and condemnation does not come from positive thinking or will power. It comes from understanding what Jesus did. Jesus is the very tangible reason we can all walk free, in the face of accusations and condemnation.

Jesus is the very reason why imperfect people can expect things that are reserved for saints! In fact Jesus is the reason why imperfect people are called saints!

So let's examine what Jesus did to free us from the limitations of accusations and condemnation.

Colossians 2:13-15

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

HE FORGAVE ALL YOUR TRESPASSES

Strong's Concordance defines forgiveness as granting as a favour, a pardon or rescue. To give freely. Whilst it defines a trespass as a side-slip, i.e. (unintentional) error or (wilful) transgression:--fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.

Through Jesus' perfect work on the cross, we have been pardoned of every side slip, error, fall, fault offence or sin! Don't skip this part, or read this too quickly. Don't read this with any limitations. Just read this as it is in the Word...HAVING FORGIVEN YOU ALL TRESPASSES!

The reason this whole scheme of accusations and condemnation affects every single one of us, is that we have all fallen, we all have faults, we've committed offences against God and against every other standards around us. This means that at any point in time, most of the accusations levied against us will be true. Which means that the limitation imposed by the condemnation is justified.

In **John 8**, we see a perfect example. The woman was caught IN THE VERY ACT OF ADULTERY. The accusations were true and right! The condemnation was justified against the laws of Moses. But Jesus, when asked what His verdict was, turns around and asks a guilty woman to walk free.

Why would Jesus do this? Is he saying that adultery was now ok? Certainly not. He asks the woman to walk free because OUTSIDE OF THE WOMB OF TIME, HE HAD ALREADY FORGIVEN HER OF HER FAULTS AND TAKEN THE PUNISHMENT ON HIMSELF (ISAIAH 53:5)

Even before you missed it, broke the law, Jesus, the only one qualified to condemn you, the righteous judge of all the earth, had already decided to set you free.

Dear friend, there is only one person qualified to punish you for falling short of any standard. That person is Jesus. The good news is that He has forgiven ALL YOUR TRESPASSES!

HE TOOK THE LAW OUT OF THE WAY!

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, **AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY**, nailing it to his cross;

Jesus took the law, and indeed the every standard that you could be accused of falling short of, and He nailed it to the cross! This does not mean that there is now no standard or law to live by, it means that if you want to know the standard, you need to look to Jesus. He nailed it to the cross so that every time we examine the standard that we need to live by or the standard we missed, it will be in the context of the cross.

Dear friend, listen, the devil has lost! Every spiritual authority knows this. **Colossians 2:15** says **And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**

There is no longer any legitimate standard or law that can legitimately lead God to condemn you! **Romans 8:1** says that there is now therefore, **NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS!** There are no legal limitations on you as a person who believes in Jesus!

HOW TO DISARM THE ACCUSER

Jesus, forgiving your sins, putting the law out of the way and taking the punishment we were due for falling short, doesn't mean that there are no more consequences for missing the mark or falling short of certain standards. I don't believe that the word teaches that. It does mean that the consequences of our sin no longer has mastery over us.

Romans 6:14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Let me say it in a different way; this means that we are no longer permanent slaves to the consequences of our shortcomings.

Jesus had already decided to die for the adulterous woman (and the person she committed adultery with) before they committed adultery. But she still suffered the humiliation and trauma that she did. That's a consequence of committing adultery. She exposed herself to that humiliation and trauma that she experienced.

However, that humiliation and trauma did not have a grip on her for long. It did not limit her future as the accuser of the brethren desired. Jesus set her free. Jesus removed those limitations!

You might have made a mistake with the way you managed your finances, so much so that you are now in debt. You may have taken a loved one for granted as a result of which they left you. You may have broken the law of the land you live in, as a result of which you are reading this book from a jail cell. You might not have the stable career you desire now because of some bad decisions you made in your youth. All those things are consequences of falling short.

The beauty of the work that Jesus did is that you don't have to stay in debt. You don't have to live your whole life alone. Even in jail, you can still expect to live a life as fulfilling as those who have never been to jail! His grace can bring you out of every limitation brought about by condemnation. His grace has made you eligible for a brilliant debt free future! His grace has made you eligible for wholesome relationship and a fulfilled life!

The beauty of the Work that Jesus did is that He turned the heart of the highest judge in all the universe in your favour. So whilst you will always find a person, a system, a standard that will have a legitimate reason to condemn you for falling short, if you are willing to take the case to the highest judge, you will ALWAYS be legitimately vindicated.

Even when you are guilty, Jesus' perfect work declares you NOT GUILTY! This means that **even when you are guilty, your future doesn't have to be limited by your guilt.** Your future does not have to be limited by your shortcomings. Your future does not have to be limited by your mistakes. Just like the adulterous woman in John 8, in your guilt, you can still expect the freedom usually reserved for the guiltless. All because of Jesus.

GO AND SIN NO MORE

John 8

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

In John 8 after Jesus tells the woman caught in the act of adultery, that He does not condemn her, He says something significant. He told her to go and sin no more! The role of Jesus in your life is not just to deliver you from the grips of accusations and condemnation, His role is to guide you along the right path.

To receive freedom from condemnation without receiving the one who gives freedom is like borrowing a light in a dark room, just to find your lost keys. But after you found the keys you switched off the light! It will only be a matter of time before you find yourself in some kind of trouble again. It will only be a matter of time before you arm the accuser with another broken standard with which he can accuse you.

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

After Jesus sets us free, His expectation is that we'd follow Him. He is not only the reason why we can live without the limitations of condemnation. He is also the reason why we can do better in the future. He is the light that means that we don't need to keep falling into the ditch.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Think about something you are certainly guilty of. Don't be afraid to confront yourself
- What are the consequences of that fault of yours? Has it made you fearful? Less confident? Angry? Insecure?
- Purposefully assign the consequences of that guilt to Jesus.
- Now purposefully assign Jesus' innocence to yourself. Can you handle that? Can you receive that?

A PREVIEW OF LIFE WITHOUT CONDEMNATION

Romans 5:17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Grace is God's overwhelming desire to give you what you don't deserve. Condemnation is the enemies desire to remind you of what you deserve. We all deserve to be condemned. We all deserve to be limited in every way because of our poor record when it comes with keeping God's standards.

The enemy knows this, and works this! If He can keep you conscious of what you deserve, he can keep you limited. Limited in creativity. You were born to create. You were born to reproduce the ideas in your heart. But people who live under condemnation will not be as creative as they are capable of being. Creativity is at its best when there are no limitations. Creativity is at its best when there is freedom.

This is where God's Grace comes in, in the person of Jesus. God's grace does not deny our guilt. God's Grace confirms our guilt. But God's Grace is God removing the

limitations that condemnation brings! Grace says Go & Sin no more. Grace gives us, who are certainly guilty the freedom to create a life in line with our creators desire, in spite of our shortcomings.

If you can boldly receive the Grace of God, the freedom from the limitations of condemnation, you will reign in life. Most of the people who are at the height of their purpose are people who have been able to create.

The woman caught in the act of adultery in John 8, was limited by the condemnation of death which she deserved. But Jesus set her free. He said I do not condemn you...GO.

Receiving the abundance of God's grace is the moment where you are clear that you deserve condemnation, but you still go forward with your life, because Jesus said GO!

When you choose Jesus' instruction to GO, over the enemies' suggestion to accept condemnation, you disarm the accuser. You disarm the accuser when you ascribe your guilt to Jesus on the Cross and ascribe Jesus' innocence to yourself.

Every day, get up and go for God's best for you, not because you deserve it, but because Jesus authorised you to. Expect a good future in spite of your horrible past. Jesus has set you free to create the life you see on the inside. Jesus has disarmed the accuser. Live free from condemnation.