

Romans 8

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SIN NATURE

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER OVER SIN. (8:1-11)

- In some ways this chapter is the climactic goal of Paul's argument in the first 7 chapters. The material in this chapter is what he has wanted to say from chapter one on. To make the points that he makes in this chapter, he had to give us the first seven as background.
- In essence, he is saying, "I want you to walk in the newness of life in the Spirit."

a. Free from the principle of sin

1. In Christ we are not to experience condemnation (8:1)

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. In Christ we are under a new law (force) (8:2)

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

3. In Christ we see our "flesh" condemned in His sacrifice for us (8:3)

³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God {did:} sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and {as an offering} for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

b. Free from the power of sin

1. “walking according to the flesh or the Spirit” (8:4) - We will fulfill the demands of the Law by walking in the Spirit.

4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2. “are according to the flesh or the Spirit” (8:5) - Those who are outside of Christ do not have the Spirit’s power.

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

3. “mind set on the flesh or the Spirit” (8:6) - The way we identify ourselves is a life or death issue.

6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

a. The mind set on the flesh

1. Is not able to obey (8:7)

7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able {to do so};

2. Is the mark of those who “are in the flesh” (8:8)

8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

b. The mind set on the Spirit

1. Is the mark of those who “have the Spirit” (8:9)

9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

2. Is the mark of those who have Christ “in them” (8:10)

10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

c. Free from the presence of sin (8:11-13) - One day even our members (mortal bodies) will have life.

1. Not to live according to the flesh (8:11-12)

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—

2. But to put to death the deeds of the body (8:13)

13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- The phrase “must die” literally translated is “are about to die”.
- Note: “Die” and “live” have to do with the general principle of life and death in this life. Paul is not suggesting that Christians who sin lose their eternal security. If believers lose salvation when they sin then all that Paul has been striving to say in this letter is refuted.
- We cannot experience life in the Spirit if we are living according to the flesh.

INTRODUCTION

A. Let me ask you a question.

If you could be assured of financial success, psychological peace, physical health, and social fame for most of your life, would you be willing to spend the next ten years without faith in Christ or involvement in His kingdom?

If you were asked to be socially outcast, financially poor, vocationally under employed and emotionally troubled for most of your adult life would you be satisfied with a heroic faith, a selfless love for others, and an enduring hope?

Romans 8:5-6 "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,"

Galatians 5:25 "If we live by the Spirit, let us also **walk by the Spirit.**"

B. How does a Christian walk by the power of the Spirit? That is the question we are asking ourselves as we read Romans 8.

C. **Review:**

1. Paul is writing to **Christians** - those who have faith in Christ.
2. In verses 1-4 Paul gives us two prerequisites with respect to walking in the Spirit.
 - a. Vs.1-2 **Reconciled** to God - there is now **NO CONDEMNATION** for those who are in Christ.
 - b. Vs.3-4 **Regenerated** in Spirit - Expect Christ's life to be lived through you - **THE REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW** (love for God and my neighbor) **IS FULFILLED IN US** as we walk in the Spirit.
3. Now, in vs. 5-13 he introduces another concept (another word of instruction).
 - c. **Renewed** in mind –

Romans 8

A description of two mind sets.

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able {to do so}; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Our position

9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Our posture

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh- 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

OBSERVATIONS

A. What does it mean to "walk by the Spirit"? What it is not:

1. A mystic style -

- a. **ILLUSTRATION:** A traveling evangelist - "I have no direction or plan - I just wait for the Lord's leading (through a supernatural word or an inner voice).
- b. It is not - always getting special messages from another world, irrational, out of touch with the world. (the N.T. is conspicuously lacking in Christian models of an acetic, mystical type)

2. Biblical knowledge -

ILLUSTRATION: My observation is that everyone who loves God will love His Word but it is not reversible. Not everyone who loves the Bible loves God or His people.

3. Outward conformity to the rules -

ILLUSTRATION: Mary and Martha
Looking good under the Law will not cut it.
Being busy with religious work is not it.

4. A zeal for Spiritual things -

Zeal is great when it is married to wisdom and direction but alone it is dangerous.

In a culture that celebrates image over substance we see politicians posing for office rather than debating issues, we see products marketed by appealing to our subjective feelings rather than objective facts and we see the church confusing hype with holiness.

5. Having no unconfessed sin -

It is simply a matter of keeping my sins confessed and trusting God's Spirit to control my life. (If it were only that simple). This is certainly not what the Apostles taught the early church.

B. In most contexts it is safe to assume that to walk in the Spirit is to EXPRESS a state of being alive in Christ.

C. It is the difference between being a child of God and a disciple of Christ.

D. This passage is pretty clear until we get to vs.12-13.

POINT

To walk in the power of the Spirit I must know that I am secure in Christ, expect to give and receive love, and give attention to what I feed my mind.

IMPLICATIONS

A. To be renewed in my mind I must respect the importance of the mind.

- B. To be renewed in my mind I must reason together with God.**
- C. To be renewed in my mind I must replace the impulse of the flesh.**

CONCLUSION

- A. Gal.6:7-8** "7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life."
- B. Walking in the Spirit is a process that starts with our minds being clear as to the meaning and source of life.**

Our position in Christ	Our experience in Christ
regeneration	trust
sealing with the Spirit	assurance of salvation
indwelling of the Spirit	filling with the Spirit
justification	freedom from condemnation
member of the body of Christ	fellowship with believers
Children of God	Disciples of Christ
Static	Dynamic
Complete and perfect	Incomplete and imperfect
Christ's work for us on the cross	Christ's work in us through the Spirit
Passive righteousness	Active righteousness
Legal position	Living performance
Coming to Christ	Following after Christ