

# Romans 8:5-14

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*Chapter 8 is the high-water mark in Romans. This fact is generally conceded by all interpreters of this great epistle. [McGee]*

*We enter this chapter with no condemnation, we close with no separation and in between all things work together for good to those that love God. [Unknown]*

# Setting the Mind

## *Romans 8:5-6*

*<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;*

- ⦿ Here again, we have the principle of death set in contradistinction with the principle of life (and peace)
- ⦿ Technically, this verse appears to apply to a Christian, who can live in one of two ways
  - With his “mind set on the flesh” [NASB]
  - With his “mind set on the spirit” [NASB]
- ⦿ We’re often told to guard our minds and hearts
  - Pr 4:23; Rom 13:14; 2Cor 10:5; Phil 4:8; Col 3:1-2

# The Carnal Mind

## *Romans 8:7*

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*the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

- ⦿ This verse teaches how very wrong it is for a person (Christian or non) to set his mind on the flesh
  - Hostile toward God
  - Does not subject itself to God's law
  - Can not subject itself to God's law
- ⦿ Remember, the non-Christian is an enemy of God!  
(Rom 5:8; Col 1:21)

# In the Flesh

## *Romans 8:8*

*Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

- Technically, this verse appears to apply to a non-Christian
  - “In the flesh” (v.8, NASB)
  - Not “according to the flesh” (v.5, NASB)
  - Also “*you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit*” (v.9, NASB)
- You can’t please God in the flesh!
  - *“...the Spirit...gives life; the flesh profits nothing...”* John 6:63
  - *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.* Rom 7:18

***To hope to do better is to fail to see yourself in Christ only. [Newell]***

***To be disappointed in yourself means you believed in yourself. [Newell]***

***The lack of divine blessing comes from unbelief, not a failure of devotion. [Newell]***

# Controlled by the Spirit

## *Romans 8:9*

*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

- Here we have a test for whether one is indeed a Christian
  - Those without the Spirit of Christ are not His
  - Paul told even the carnal Corinthians that their bodies were temples of the Holy Spirit (1Co 6:19)
  - See also 1Jn 3:24
- Because the Spirit of God lives in us, we are not controlled by the sinful nature (*in the flesh*, NASB, KJV, NKJV)

# Life Through Christ in You

## *Romans 8:10*

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*But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

- Here again we have the principle of death set in contradistinction with the principle of life
- Our Body: Dead because of sin
  - The creation is subject to frustration and bondage to decay (vv.20-21)
- Our Spirit: Alive because of righteousness
  - Though we were dead in our transgressions and sins (Eph 2:1), we have been born again (Jn 3:3,7; Titus 3:5; 1Pe 1:23) and are thus made alive to God (Rom 6:11) in our spirit.

# Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

## *Romans 8:11*

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*And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

- ⦿ Though our mortal bodies are dead because of sin (v.10), we eagerly await the redemption of our bodies (v.23) through the Spirit (cf. 2Cor 5:1-5)
- ⦿ *To them [the saints, v.26] God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* (Col. 1:27)

# Obligated to Live by the Spirit

## *Romans 8:12-13*

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*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,*

- ⦿ Here again we have the principle of death set in contradistinction with the principle of life
- ⦿ There is also here the principle of reaping and sowing (Gal 6:7-8)
- ⦿ The power to overcome the flesh is by the Spirit!



# Led by the Spirit

## *Romans 8:14*

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*because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

- We know that we are sons of God because we are led by the Spirit of God.
- God does not drive his sheep; He leads them! [McGee]
  - God's sheep hear his voice (Jn 10:26-27)
  - The children of the devil have no room for his word (Jn 8:37,44)
- What does it feel like to be lead by the Spirit?
  - Sometimes it feels like the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6)
  - Sometimes it feels like the Holy Spirit and us (Acts 15:28)
  - Sometimes it feels like us

# Bibliography

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