

Romans 8:1-17 New Life in Christ

We have seen in our study in the book of Romans how we are linked with Christ in his death/ Resurrection!

A) Result is FREEDOM

B) Set free from Sin chapter 6

1) Set free from the law Chapter 7

C) Been given new life – Life in the Spirit Ch. 8

V.1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,*

Noted that the second part of verse 1 in our English Bibles – the part that says **who do not walk according to the flesh.....the Spirit.**

A) That part of this verse is not in the original text – but has been placed there by translators in an attempt to **clarify** the text.

B) But in reality it brings **confusion** to the text rather than Clarity.

C) See by attaching that phrase there in- **who do not walk according to the flesh.....the Spirit.**

1) It makes walking in the spirit a condition of Justification

D) There is no condition other than faith – **Rom. 5:1**

1) **Justified by faith**

See walking in the Spirit is not the condition of **Justification**

A) But rather **the evidence of Sanctification**

B) It is the evidence of a person who is enjoying the reality of being JUSTIFIED- fits perfect in v.4

C) SO V.1 is a declaration of Justification -

1) NO CONDEMNATION

D) **not "less condemnation."**

1) That's where many of us are at - we think that our standing has merely improved in Jesus.

E) It hasn't improved, it's been completely transformed, changed to no condemnation.

See Paul wants us to understand that our New Life in Christ = New Status – No condemnation
² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

A) The law is referred to here as the law of sin and death because that is what it produces in us
1) Reveals our sin – and leads to death!

B) Paul says in v.2 Christ – there is a new law {a new power, alive in me

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ.

A) This is a reference to the Holy Spirit – who is now **active in my life as Christian** – gives me victory over the law of sin and death.

B) Think of it this way: If you go to the airport, you'll see planes sitting on the runway.

1) They're not going anywhere because the law of gravity is keeping them on the ground.

C) But those planes possess something that enables them to overcome the law of gravity.

1) The planes have engines

D) And as soon as their engines are turned on, the law of **aerodynamics** takes over.

1) Although gravity is still in effect and still pulls on the planes,

E) There's a **higher law**, a more powerful force at work that allows them to overcome the law of gravity.

That's what Paul is saying. We're free from this law of sin and death.

A) **We're free by the Spirit of Jesus Christ.**

B) He lives *in* us, enabling us to fly high and overcome the law of sin and death

³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, **but understand the law was not weak** in and of itself – the law is perfect and good. The weakness was with us – our flesh – we could not consistently keep the law – there in lied the weakness.

So the law was unable to make a man righteous – For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh God did by sending His own Son in

the likeness of sinful flesh, {Jesus became a man} on account of sin: Jesus came do deal with the sin problem

He condemned sin in the flesh,- Condemned idea is:

A)Through Jesus God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

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

B)Note what Paul says- the righteous requirement of the law – the way of living in righteousness

1)might be Fulfilled – not by us – but in us

C)In the same way that an airplane possesses an engine that helps it overcome the law of gravity

1)We possess the Holy Spirit who helps us now live a righteous life

D)Jesus fulfilled the law and overcame death – and now the Spirit of Jesus lives in us

1)Enabling us to live a life that pleases God!

This is what God promised in the OT Jeremiah 31:31 / Ezekiel 36:26

A)Establish a new Covenant – Give you a new heart

Place my spirit within you and He will cause you – Empower you – to walk in my ways.

B)Whole new way of living –The New Covenant Summed up like this

C)God's will becomes your desire

1)God's purpose becomes your passion.

2)God's power becomes your enablement!

THE WIND FILLING MY SAILS

Now here is where the phrase repeated in V.4 fits perfectly who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

A)Choosing to walk in the Spirit instead of the flesh is not the condition for Justification

B)Justified by faith – No condemnation – that is our standing in Christ

C)But in order to experience the fulness of life in Christ – it involves choices

1)You and I have to choose to walk according to the Holy Spirit instead of according to our flesh

D)Daily choices – which voice are you going to listen to? Flesh – feed me – Spirit – follow me

Paul tells us here that New Life = New mindset

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Paul is contrasting two ways of living!

A)One that leads to death – the other that leads to life.

B)Being carnal or fleshly minded – results in death!

1)The idea of death here is Barren, unfruitful, unfilled,

C)What does it mean to be carnally minded?

1)Carnal = of the flesh

D)Jesus defined it for us in Luke 12- Those who are fleshly minded are concerned about what to eat / what to wear / where to go / how to pay to get there.

See the big mistake that we often make is this:

A)We think being carnal is doing the really bad stuff the blatant sins – last weekend – Drugs/ sex etc

B)But being carnally minded is just being preoccupied with the things of this life.

1)Bent on how to please my flesh

C)This is the norm in our culture – we even have people today called “influencers”

1)They make their living on Social media giving us ideas how to be consumers – feed the flesh

D)Crazy to think – they can make a living doing that

1)Buy these shoes – go on this vacation –

Being fleshly or carnally minded Here:

A) It starts with thinking that my sense of Joy & fulfillment is going to be derived from what the Bible calls the temporal and Material.

B) My pleasure and fulfillment are going to be derived from what I eat, and where I go on vacation,

1) what I can buy, where I live, - my Profession.

C) It simply means my Focus is on the temporal.

1) I am focused on the temporal, the material as the basis for my joy, My satisfaction – my fulfillment.

D) Paul says plainly in V. 6 that to be carnally minded is death – reason – doesn't satisfy

1) It just robs you of what your life is really to be about

And in V.7 that the Carnal mind is actually at enmity against God – Contrary to God

A) Because that mindset – is going against the very reason we were created

B) We were created to find our life, and fulfillment in relationship with God

1) The Carnal mindset – contrary to that – I am going to find my fulfillment in pleasure – or career / person

C) Like running against the wind – exhausting – we never get where we really are hoping to go

1) The Fleshly mindset always says there is more

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

A) Spiritually minded – Life – living – Abundant life - Fulfillment

B) Peace – contentment is the idea – sense of Purpose

“The heart is restless until it rest in God” – Augustine

C) Opposite of running against the wind – it is running with the wind!

Now understand being spiritually minded doesn't mean that you go thru the day singing praise songs - quoting verses / thinking about heaven.

A) God Knows that we have to live in this world – we have to work and we have obligations and responsibilities.

B) Physical things like careers, School, houses, cars, possessions, , resources, things that are going to take up a large part of our time, energy and thought life.

C) Being spiritually minded is not necessarily thinking about different things. But it is thinking differently about life.

1) It is about having a different perspective and approach to all the things that fill our lives.

D) Being spiritually minded is allowing the Spirit of God working through the Word of God to shape my world view

Learning to always factor Jesus into the equation and to see life from His perspective.

A) Christian world view { THE WORD -

B) God's word begins to reshape my priorities and perspectives on life

It also involves learning to be led by the Spirit of God instead of being led by my flesh

A) Learning to be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit in my heart

B) Responding to the conviction – that is wrong thinking –

C) Now in V.9 Paul reminds us of why we should have a whole new way of thinking

1) A whole new approach to life – Life after the Spirit instead of after the flesh

D) New life = New Power

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. {New birth – new creation} Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. {No conviction about living to please the flesh? No discipline – don't have the spirit don't belong to Christ.-

Need to repent and get saved –

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, {body is falling apart and subject to this world}

but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

A)The Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in us – to empower us!

B)Christ power is available to us – how often do we tap into it?

1)Many of us go through life rarely uses the power that is available to us.

C)What would you think – guy on a motorcycle – feet power – Flintstones –

1)What are you doing.

D)I wonder if – heaven – Angels – the Lord Wonder that about us.

1)Look what you have – why are you doing it that way

“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.” 2 Peter 1:3

A)Those who are walking according to the Spirit are not trying to live the Christian life in the power of the flesh.

B)But they are walking in the power of the Spirit.

1)Absence of striving

C)River going with the flow – vs swimming up stream.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

A)There is a living that kills and there is a killing that produces life!

B) If you merely live after the flesh – it is living that kills – produces barren, unfulfilled –

C)But if you are constantly putting to death the deeds, the tendencies, the urges of the flesh – the result is life.

1)There is victory – there is life – there is an open door to experience the leading and empowering of God’s Spirit.

A pilot was flying his small plane one day, when he heard a noise which he recognized as the gnawing of a rat. Wondering what its sharp teeth were cutting through, he suddenly realized with horror that it might be an electric wire.

Then he remembered that rodents can't survive at high altitudes.

Immediately he began climbing until finally he had to put on his oxygen mask.

Soon the gnawing sound ceased, and when he landed he found the rat -- dead.

New Life = New Relationship

¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received **the Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

Adoption = Status – Joint heirs

Adoption = intimacy – Abba