

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *In The Grip of God's Grace*

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

### Romans 8:5-13 - "Living on a New Level"

Romans 8:5-13 *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."*

There are two great needs in the heart of every person – one is for forgiveness, the other, goodness.

Both these needs are met in Jesus Christ.

Notice:

(vs. 1) - *" There is therefore now no condemnation"*

(vs. 2) - *" That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

One is Justification (all God's work), the other, Sanctification (its cooperative)

In Christ we have Sanctification – being in Christ means not only a new position (vs. 1-4), it's also a new life (vs. 5-13).

The key to living life on this new level is found in verse four (vs. 4), *"...walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

Holiness is the work of the Holy Spirit.

I. The Holy Spirit must control our minds (vs. 5-8)

Romans 8:5-8, *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is*

*enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."*

Paul contrasts two mind sets.

Who are they that are "*after the flesh?*" Primarily, non-believers. Those who are controlled by their flesh.

The believer can live like an unbeliever.

What do they live like?

a) - they mind "*...the things of the flesh;*" (vs. 5)

What's the flesh?

*Matthew 6:31-32, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."*

eat, drink, clothes, - Also: money, pleasure, fame.

*1 John 2:16, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*

b) - it brings death (vs. 6)

What kind of death?

Existential death (walking zombies)

Death now: fear, guilt, hostility, and emptiness

*Illustration: Solomon – Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."*

The carnal mind leads to death.

- c) - the carnal mind is at war with God (vs. 7)
- d) - the carnal mind is not subject to the law of God (vs. 7)
- e) - the carnal mind cannot please God (vs. 8)

Illustration: the unsaved – righteous works and religion

It's speaks of the unsaved but it can also apply to Christians.

Notice verse five (vs. 5),” *...they that are after the Spirit*”

Who are they?

Christians.

1. “*...they mind the things of the Spirit*” (vs. 5)

A mind controlled by spiritual values.

Like what?

Bible, prayer, church

*Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

2. they have “*...life and peace.*” (vs. 6)

We have ‘eternal life’

We have ‘peace with God’

*Romans 5:1, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”*

3. they that are after the Spirit can please God (vs. 8)

## II. The Holy Spirit must control our members (bodies) (vs. 9-13)

*Romans 8:9-13, “. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of*

*his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."*

**A Christian is a person that has the Holy Spirit indwelling them** (vs. 9)

The Big question is not, do you go to church? have you been baptized?  
Do you partake of communion? Do you read your Bible? Do you pray?

If the Holy Spirit is not indwelling you, you are not a Christian!

But, do you have the Holy Spirit?

How do we know?

When a person has the Spirit of God they have an interest in, and a desire for, the things of God.

1. The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible.

Do you desire to read the Bible?

2. The Holy Spirit called together people into the Church.

Do you desire to go to Church?

Some say, "I can be a good Christian and not go to Church".  
Maybe so a Christian, but not a good one.

3. The Holy Spirit came to convict the lost sinner.

Do you desire to see the lost saved?

4. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Intercession (Prayer)

Do you have a desire to pray?

5. The Holy Spirit enables us to sing (worship)

Is the Spirit of God plucking the strings of your heart?

The Holy Spirit is called 'The Spirit of Christ'.

- It's the Holy Spirit that brings Christ to us (vs. 10)

- It's the Holy Spirit that produces Christ likeness in us

So the way we treat the Holy Spirit should be the way we treat Jesus!

After affirming that to have the Spirit in us is the distinguishing mark of the Christian. Paul goes on, in verse's 10 and 11 (vs. 10-11) to give us two consequences of His indwelling.

(vs. 10) "*And if...*"

We are born in sin, our body is dead – mortal bodies that decay

2 Corinthians 4:16, "*For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*"

(vs. 11) "*But if...*"

A present, here and now experience

1 Corinthians 15:54, "*So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*"

Donald Gray Barnhouse – "Our text cries out that the purpose of God is a daily transformation in these very bodies of death. This dust forms the walls of the temple of the Holy Spirit. This clay makes the platform for the exercise of God's glory. This throat, once a grave, has now become a flowing fountain; this tongue which once used deceit now speaks the truth in love. Under these lips where once poison was stored lies the refreshing spring of the grace of God; the cursing and bitterness of this mouth have been banished by songs of praise and the sweetness of gratitude. These feet, once swift to shed blood, are now swift to proclaim the glories that flow from the blood of the Redeemer. Salvation and peace mark our ways; we know no other way than the way of peace, and before our eyes there is the loving fear of God. We now are the proof of Christ's own prophecy, "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).

(vs. 12) No Obligation – in (vs. 1) there is 'no condemnation', in (vs. 12) we 're told that we are under no obligation to the flesh!

We are however, **obligated to the Holy Spirit!**

Think of all He has done for us!

(vs. 13) We cannot crucify ourselves!

It only happens through the Holy Spirit.

Sanctification is a joint participation – the Spirit’s part – Our part

Jesus said in, Matthew 5:30, *“And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”*

Paul said in, Romans 13:14, *“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”*

But we can’t do it! - The more we try the worse it will get.

To dispel darkness, all we need to do is turn on the light!

Jesus said in, Luke 17:33, *“Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.”*

To Christians it’s a Revival – Lt. – “Again”, “to live”

How?

1. Minds under the control of the Holy Spirit,
2. Mortify the Flesh